

THE ADVENTURES OF AGAD DATTA

Agad Datta, a skilled archer, is asked by the king of Kaushambi to rid his kingdom of marauding dacoits. He does so with wit and valour. Bhadrakritra, a successful merchant, loses his fortune in a shipwreck and goes home to find the remainder of his wealth swindled by the royal priest.

The two stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are taken from Vasudeva Hindee (The Travels of Vasudeva), the oldest extant collection of Jain stories.

FABLES &
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JAIN TALES OF LONG AGO

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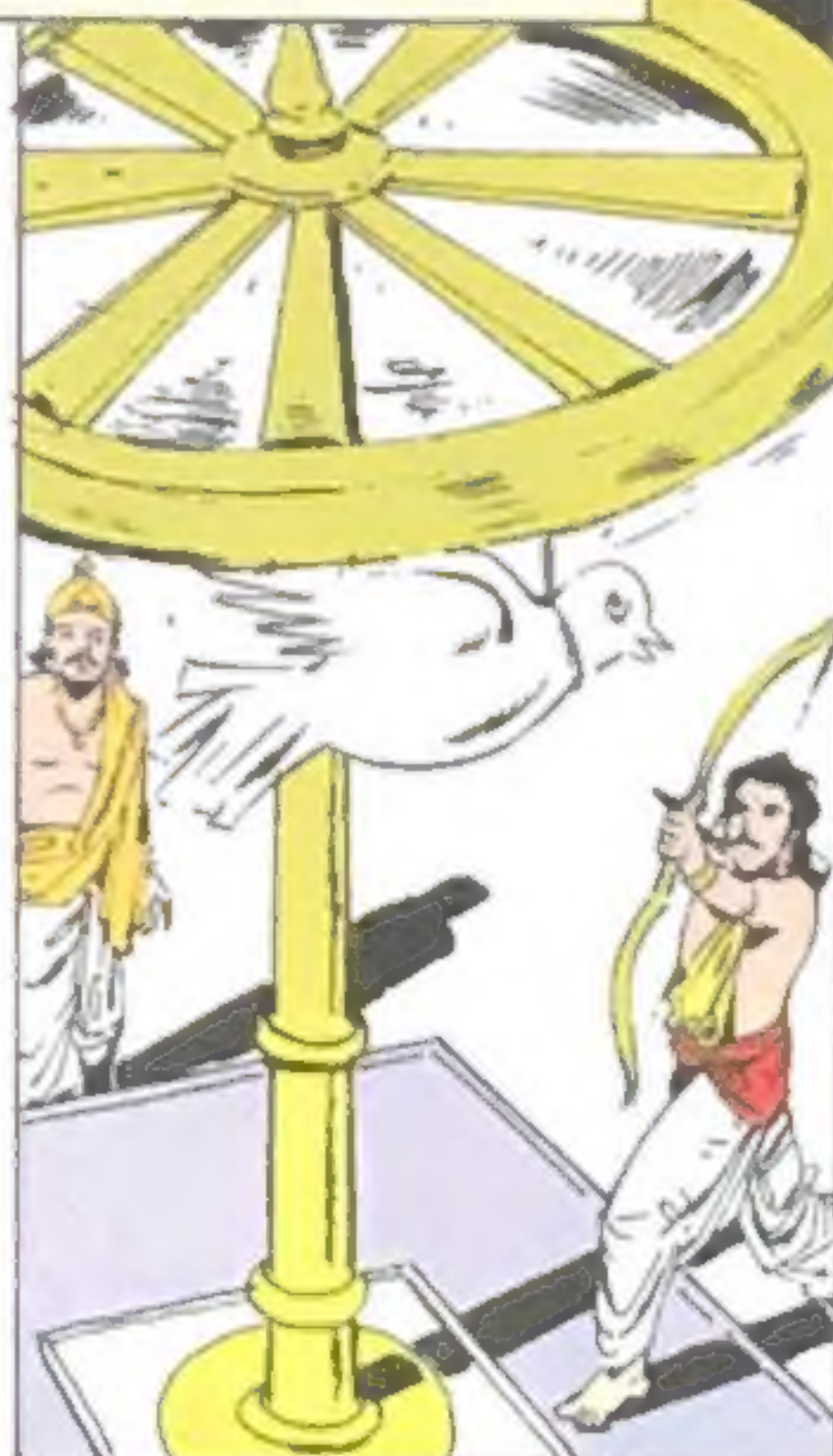
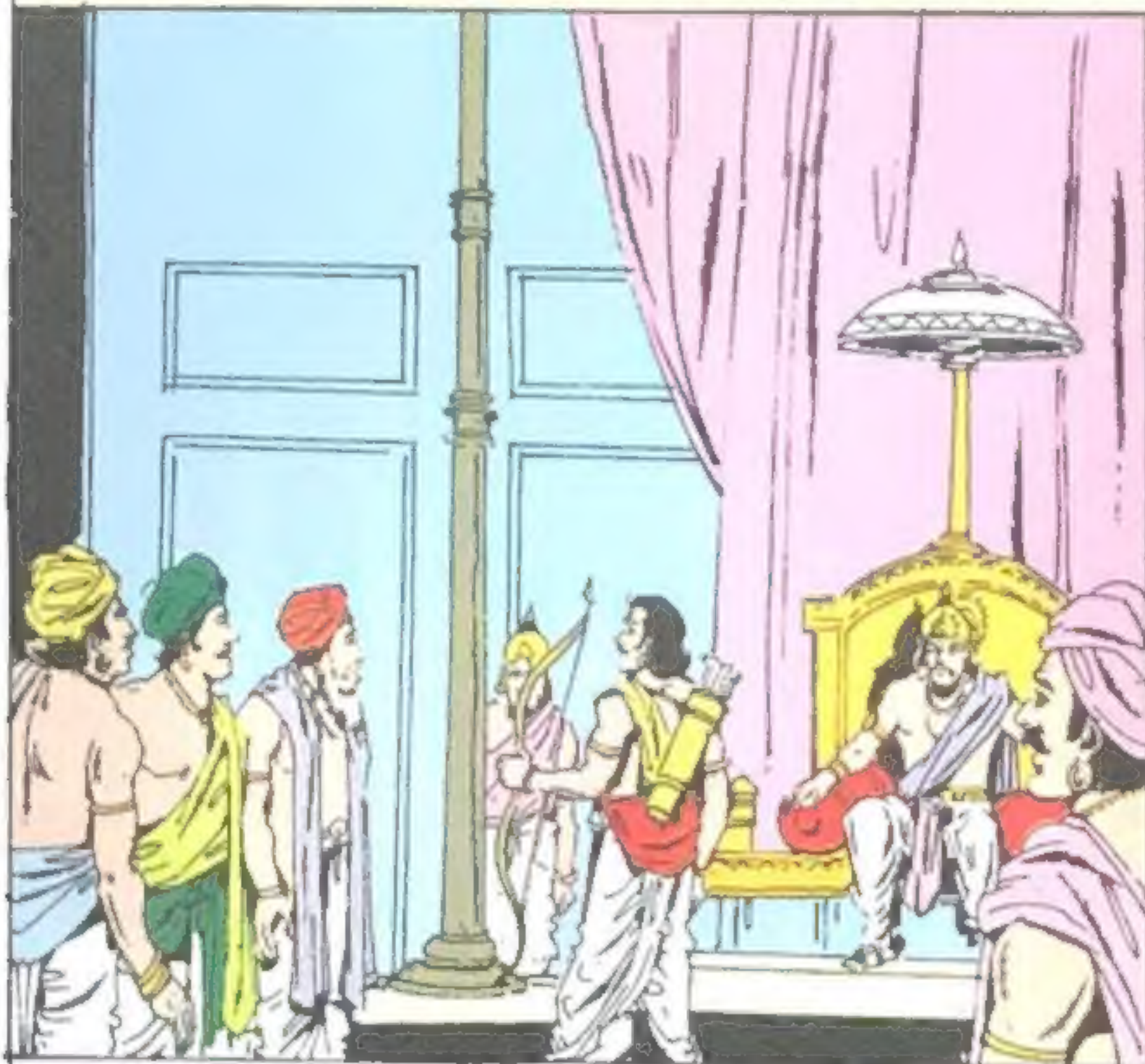
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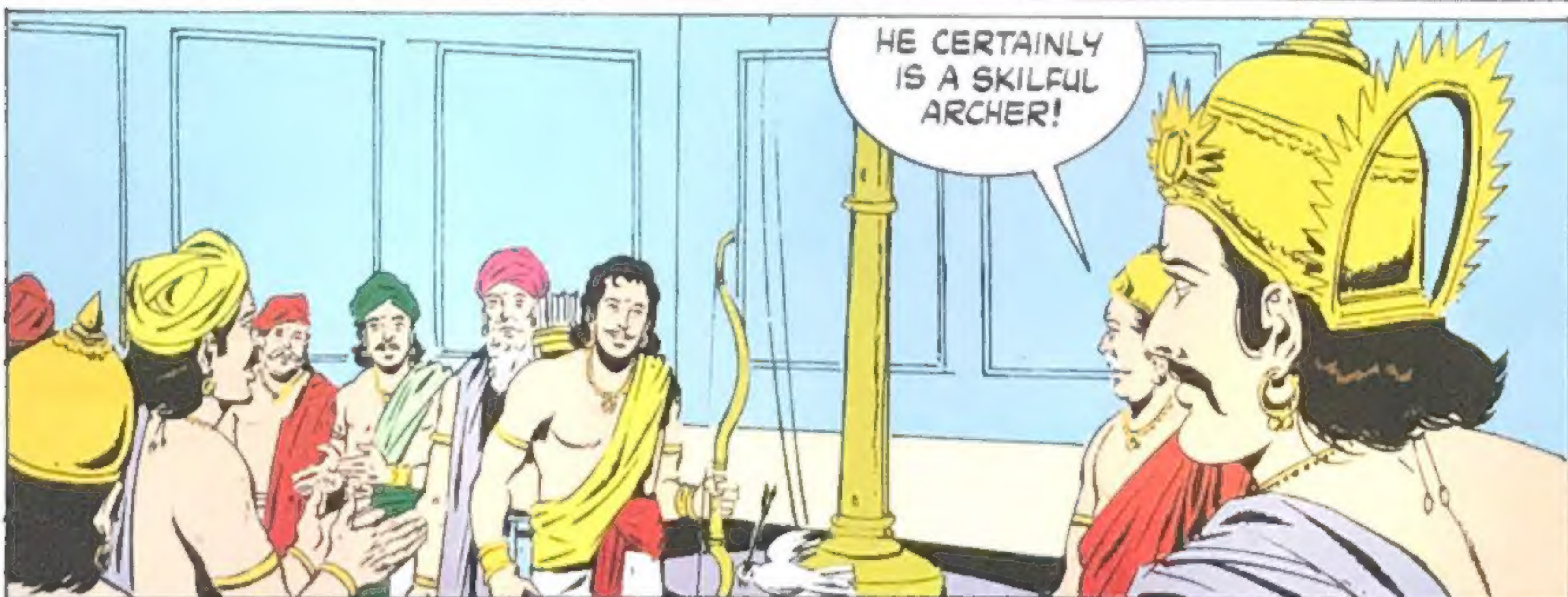
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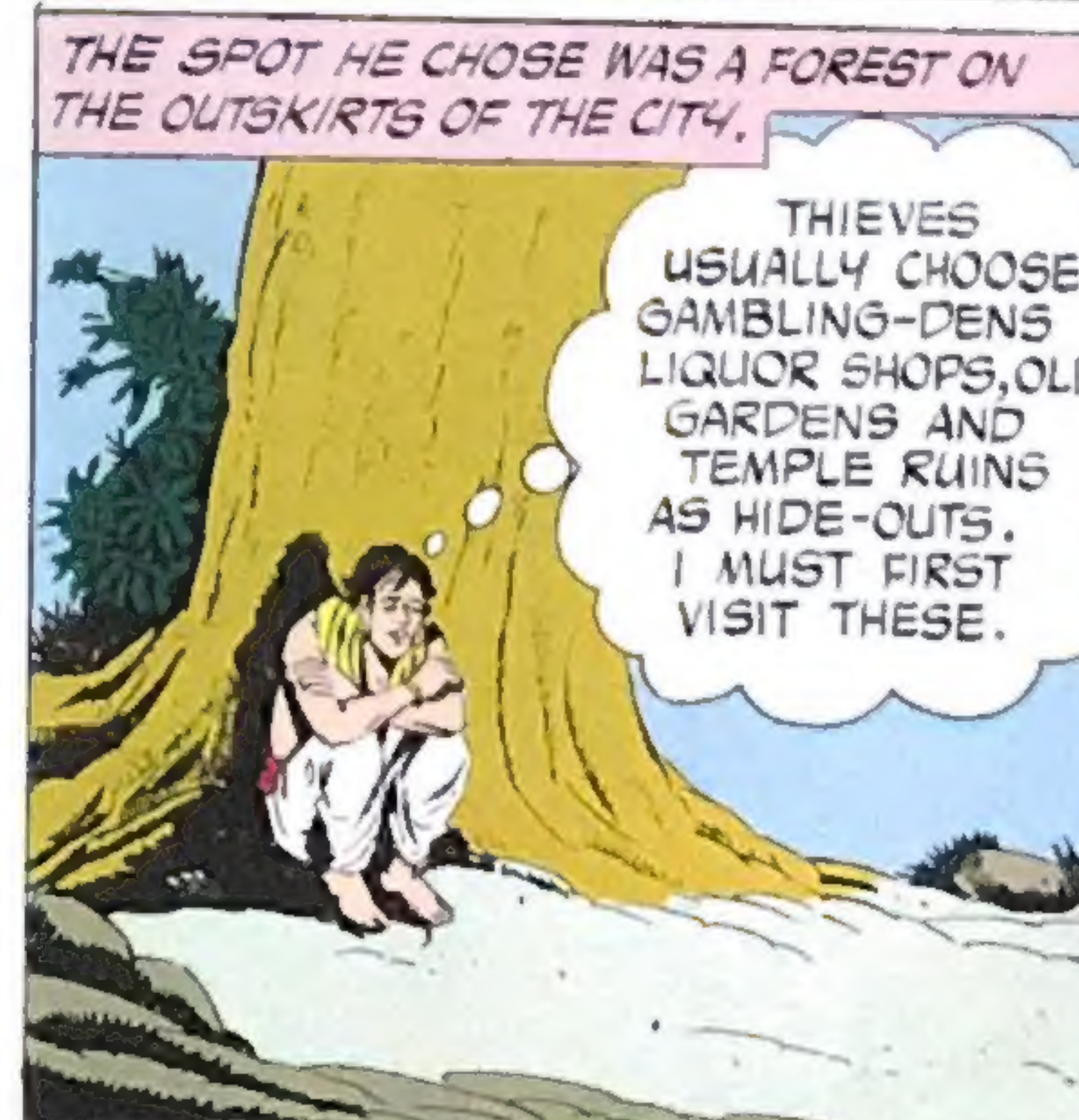
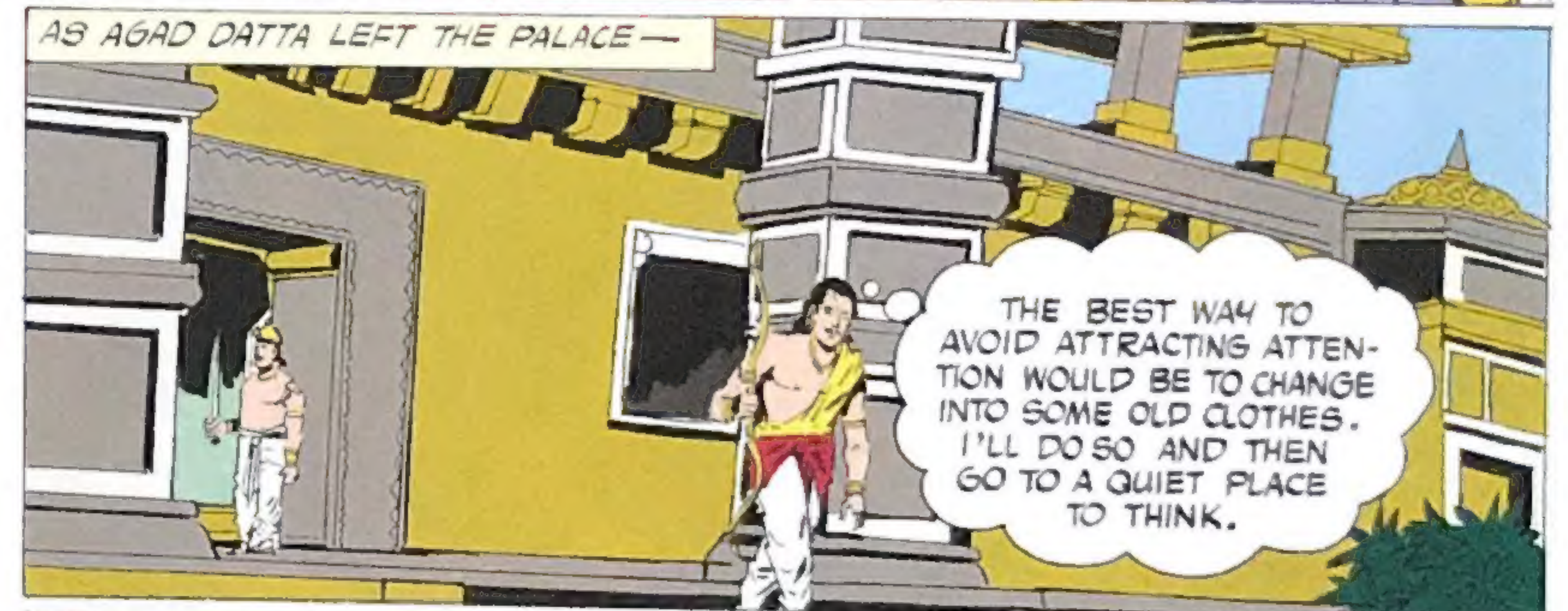
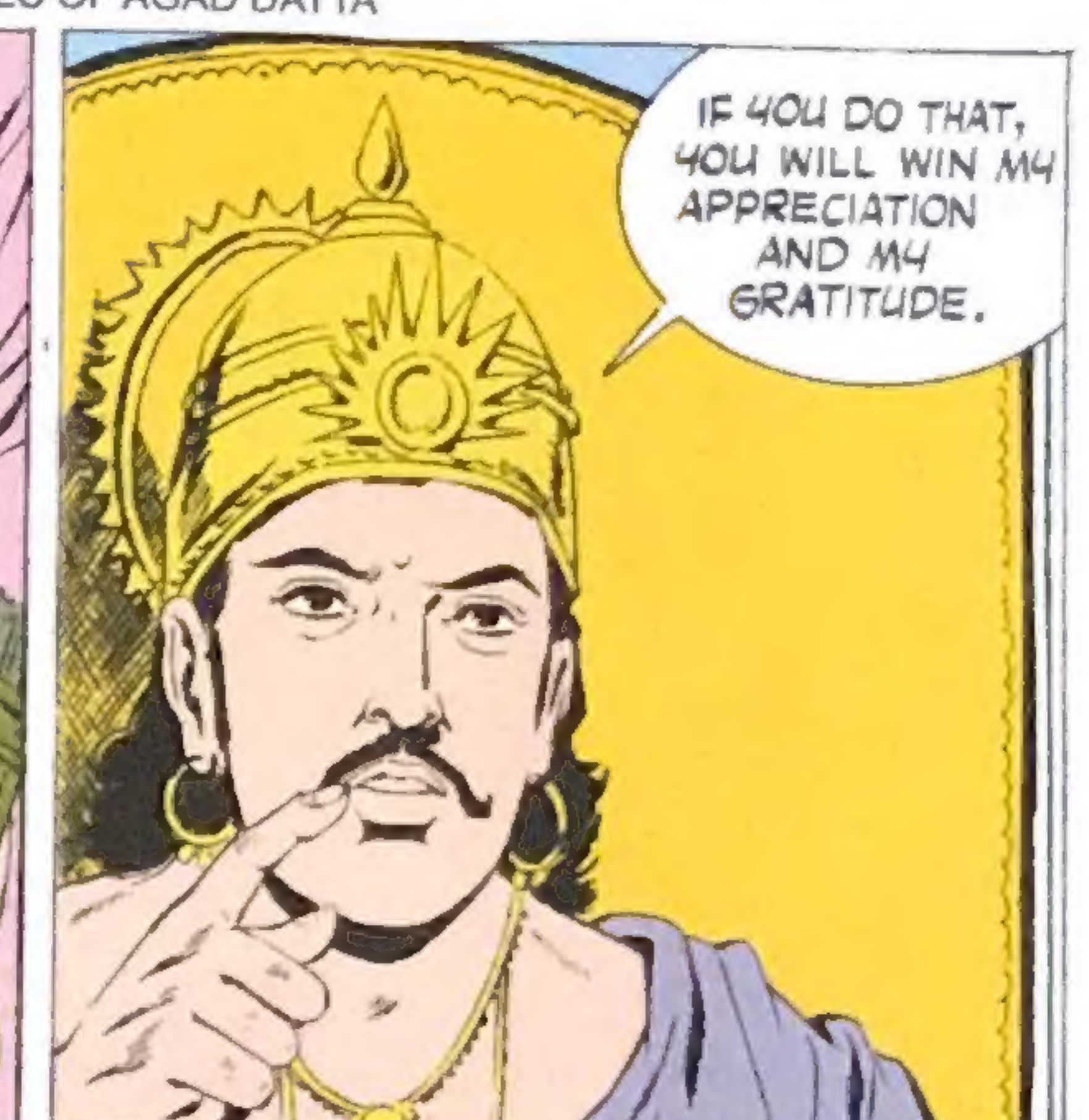
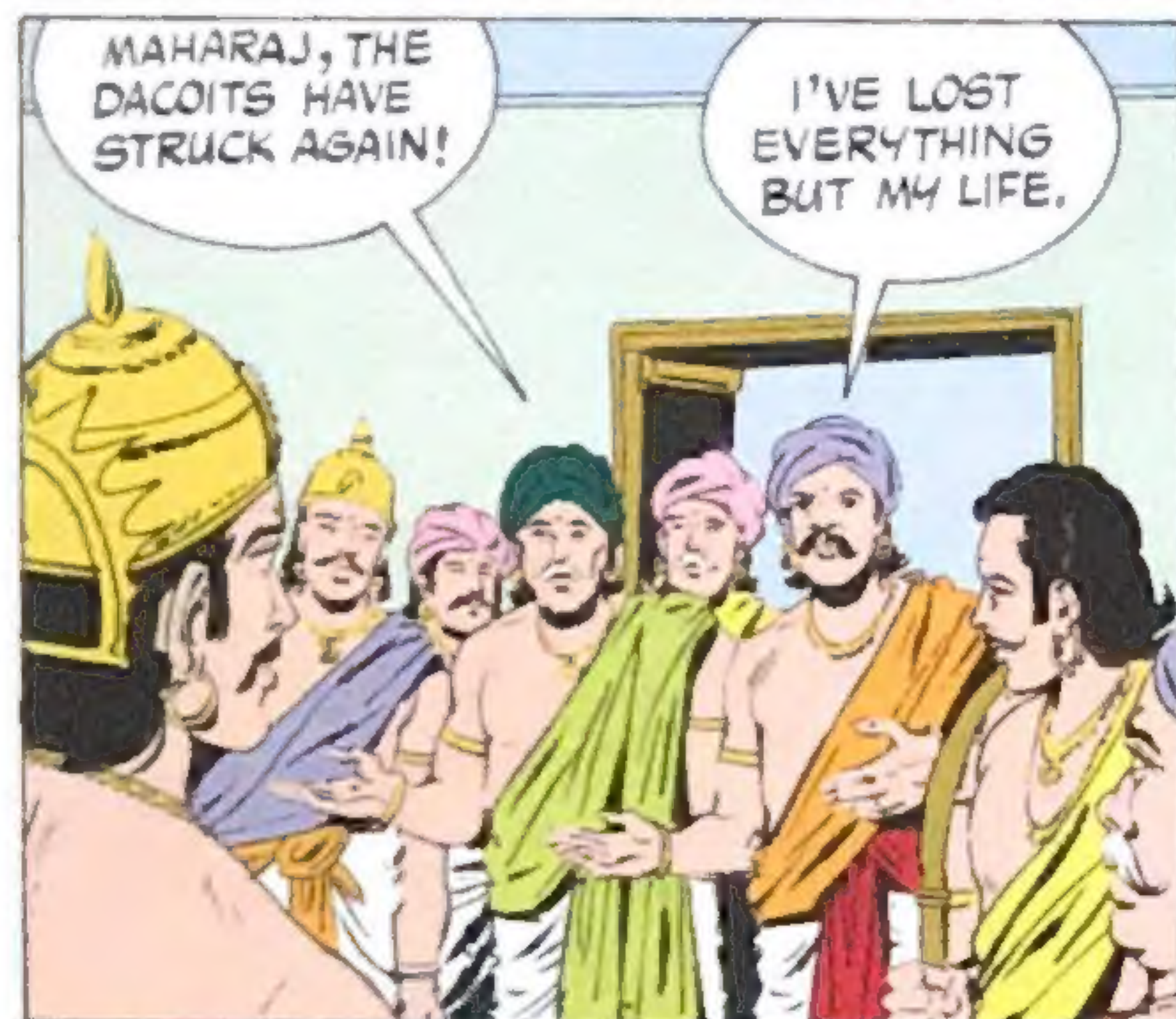


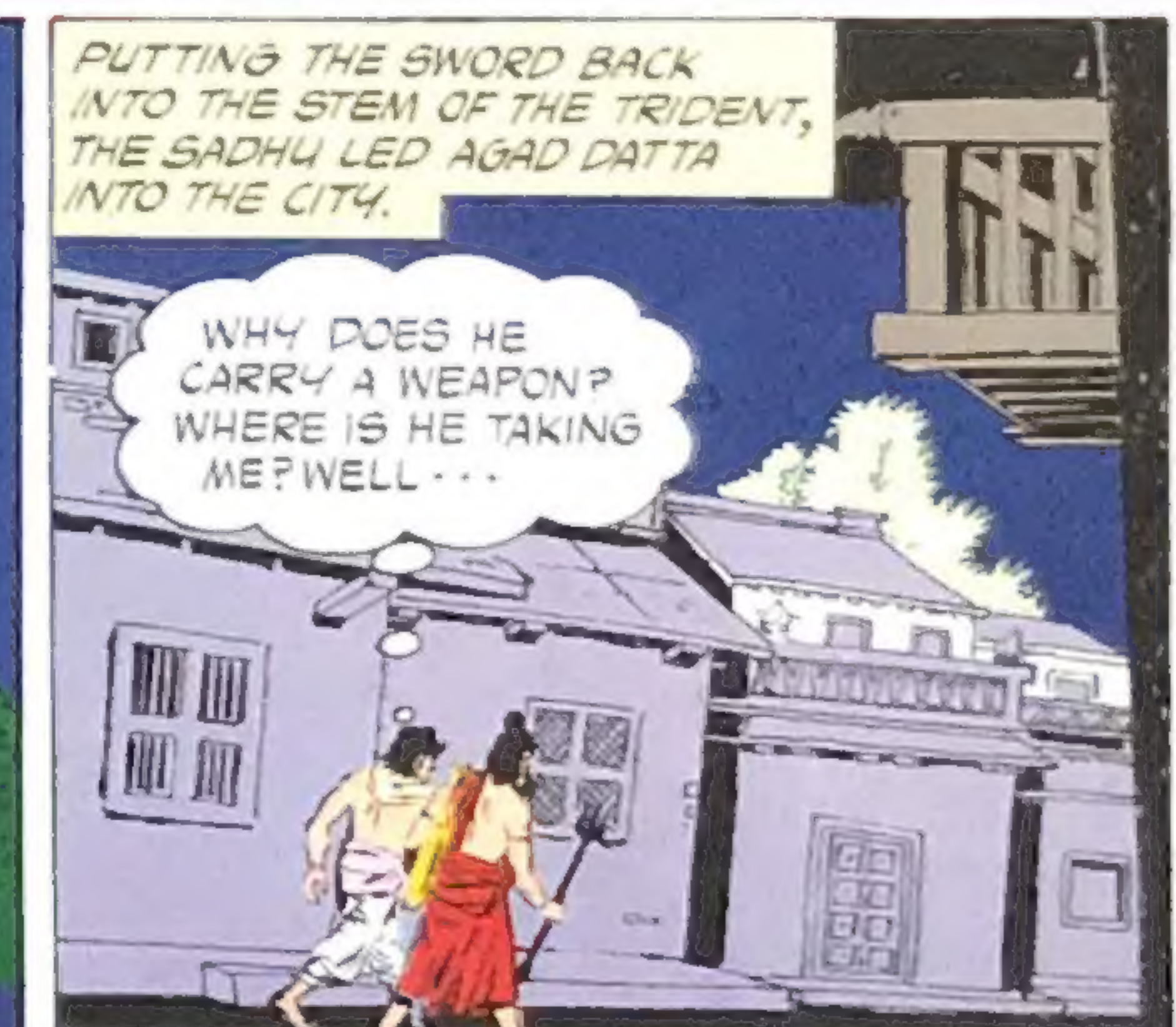
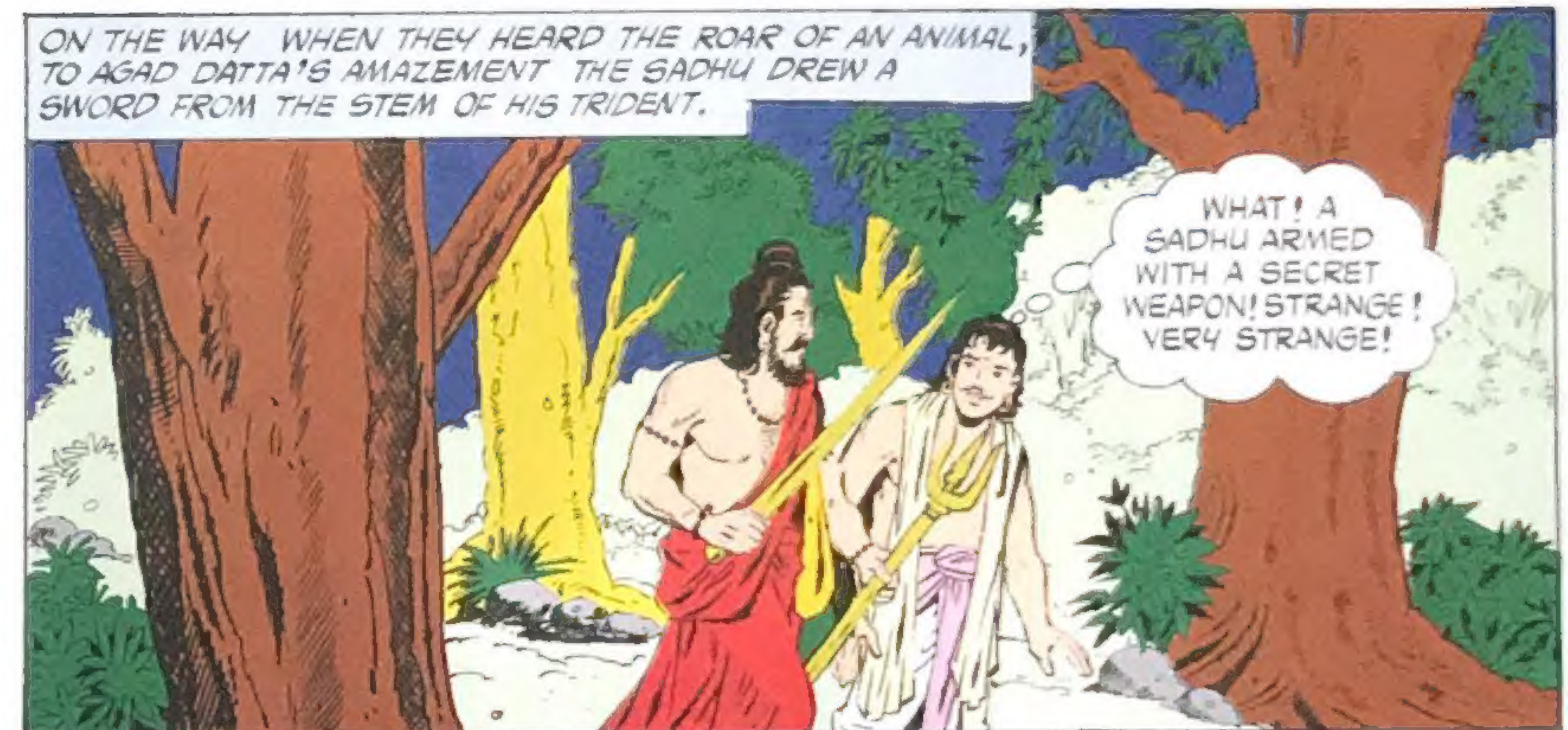
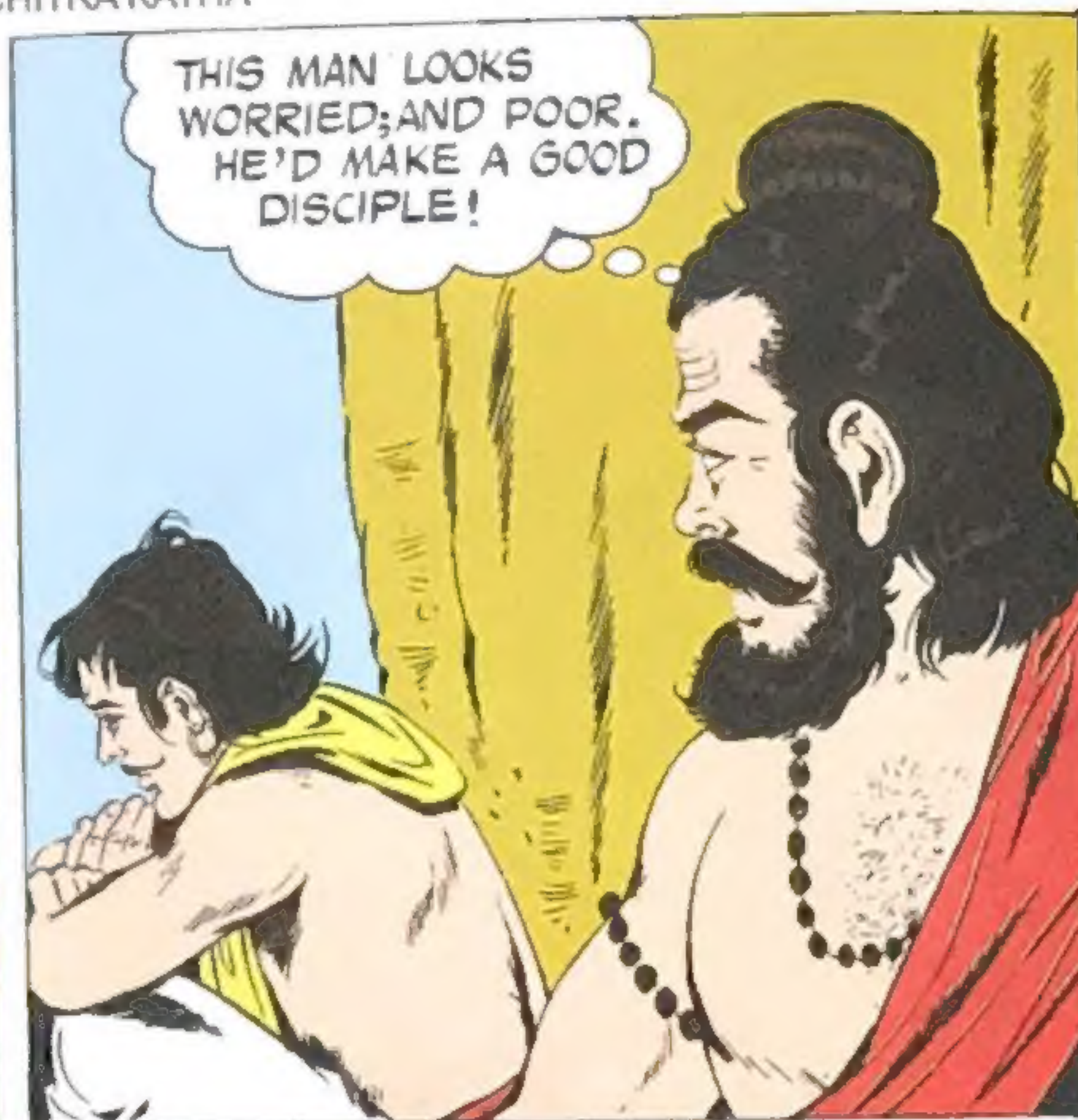
THE ADVENTURES OF AGAD DATTA

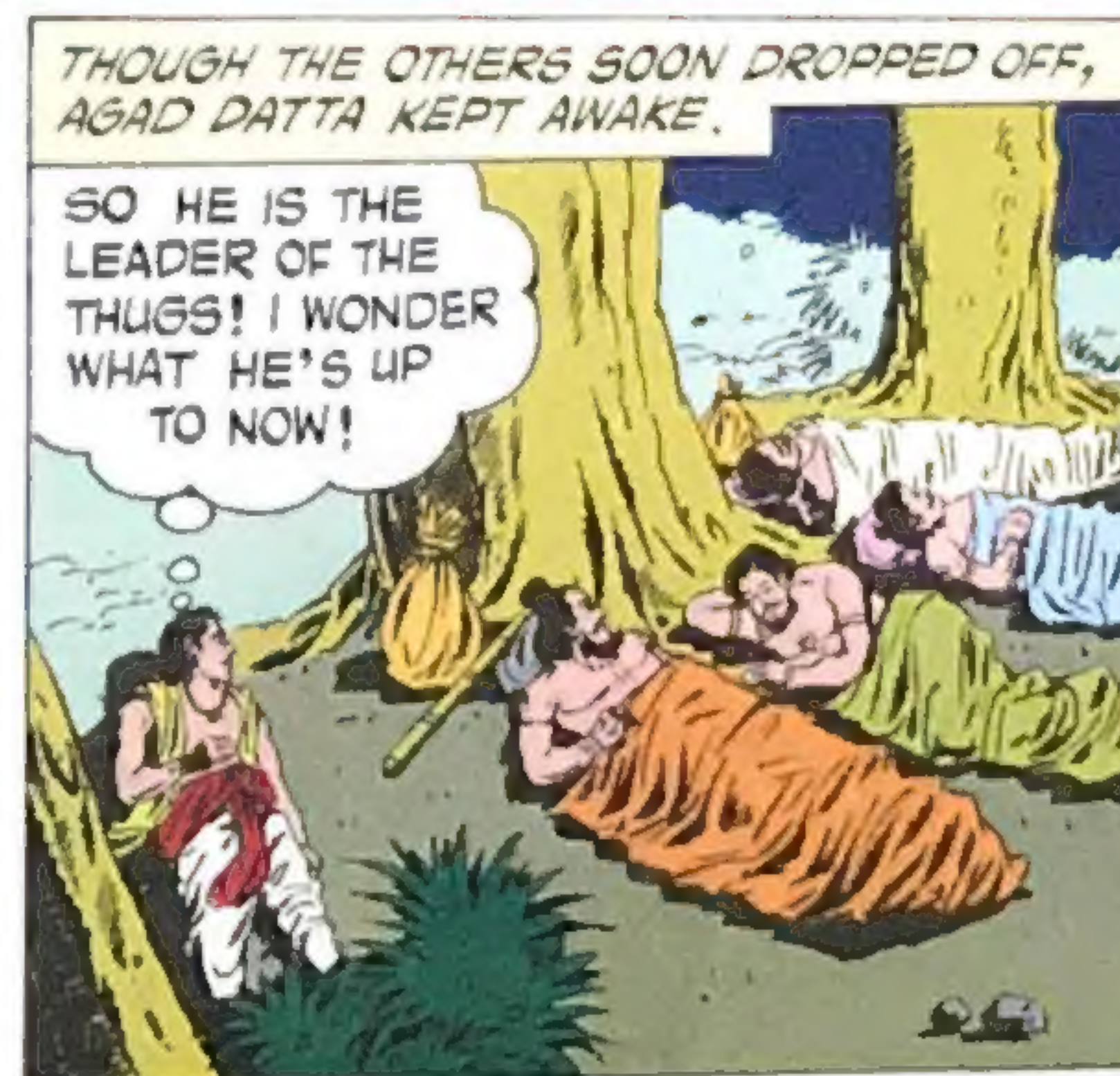


ONE DAY DRIDHA PRAHARI, ONE OF ANCIENT KAUSHAMBI'S RENOWNED TEACHERS, PRESENTED HIS DISCIPLE, AGAD DATTA, AT COURT. THE GIFTED YOUTH PERFORMED MANY FEATS OF ARCHERY.











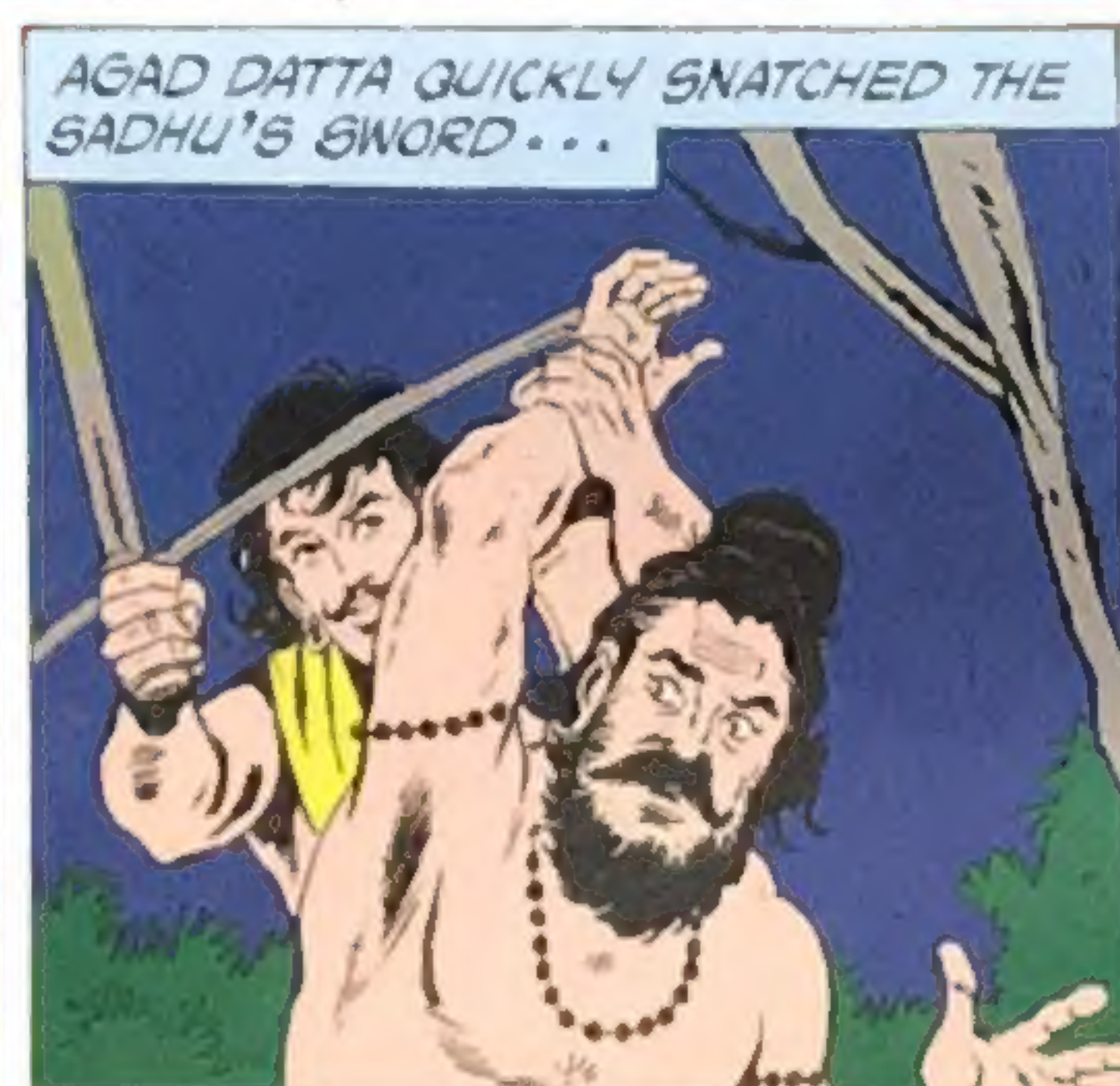
WHAT'S THAT?
WHY IS HE SPRINK-
LING POWDER ON
THEIR FACES?



HE... HE PLANS TO
KILL HIS MEN! THE
SCOUNDREL!



NO YOU
DON'T, YOU
RASCAL!



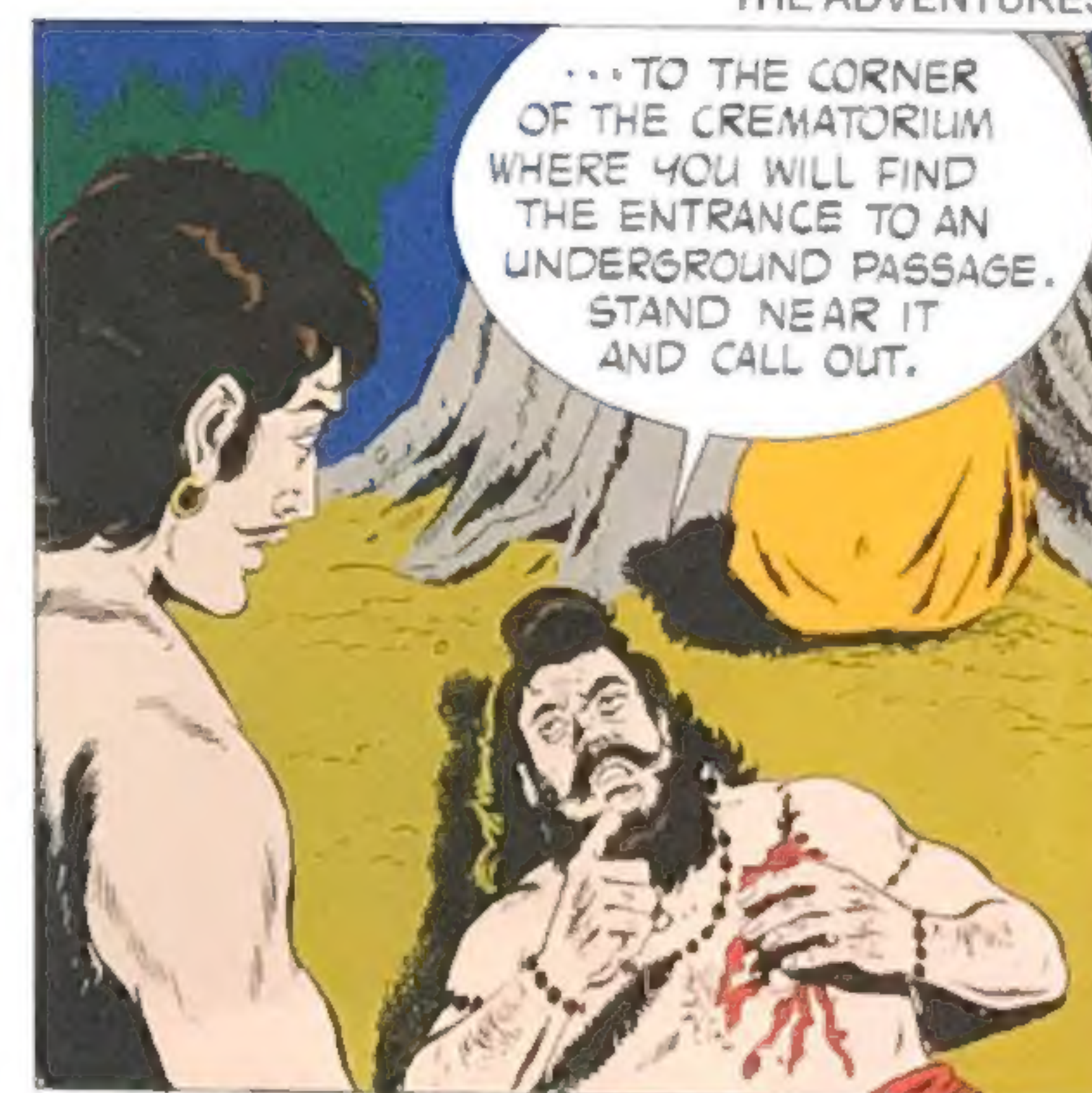
AGAD DATTA QUICKLY SNATCHED THE
SADHU'S SWORD...



... AND STRUCK HIM WITH IT.



MY SON... YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
DONE THAT. NEVER
MIND... I FORGIVE
YOU... NOW... TAKE
MY SWORD...



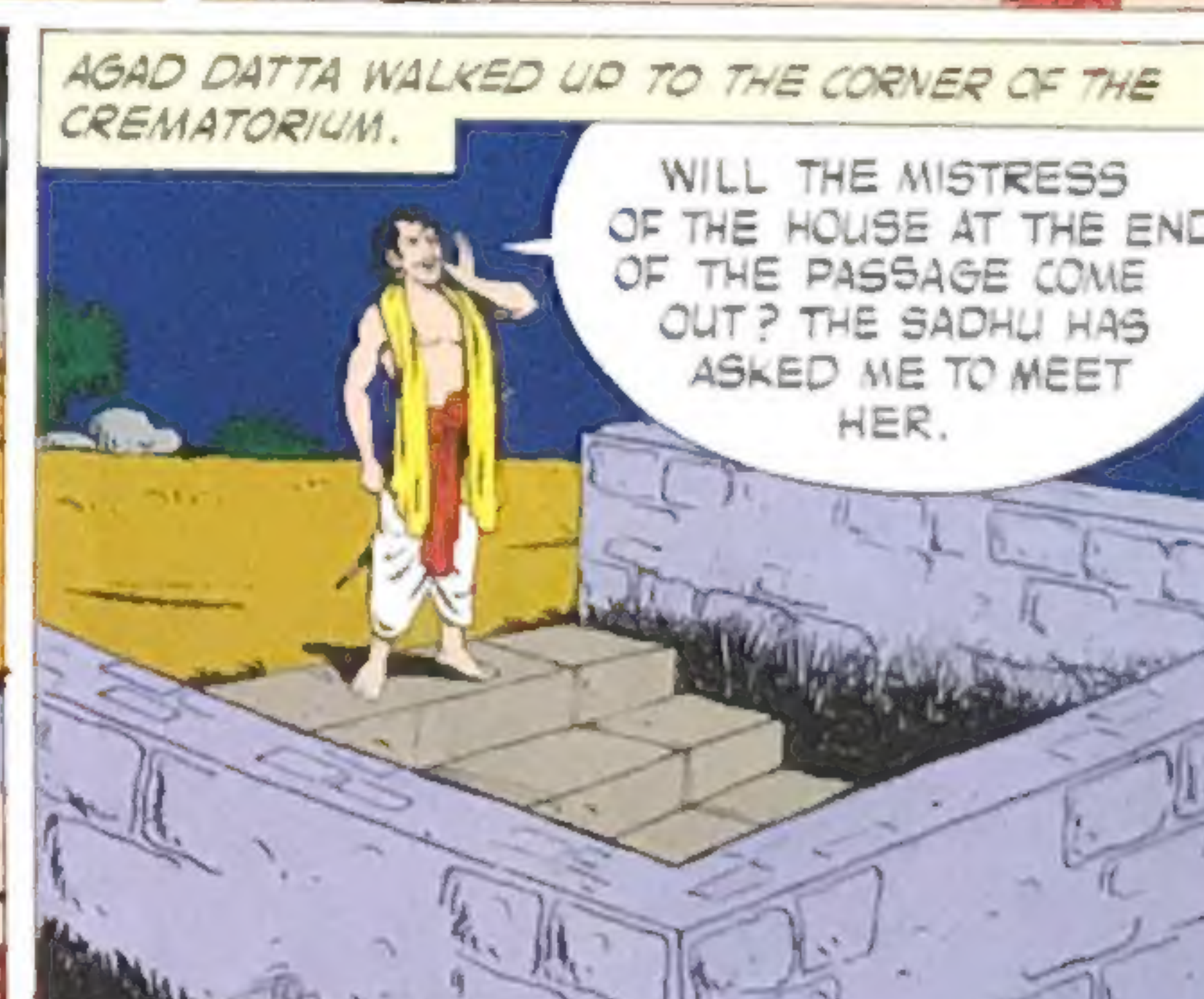
... TO THE CORNER
OF THE CREMATORIUM
WHERE YOU WILL FIND
THE ENTRANCE TO AN
UNDERGROUND PASSAGE.
STAND NEAR IT
AND CALL OUT.



MY SISTER WILL
APPEAR. GIVE HER MY
SWORD. SHE WILL MARRY
YOU... AND YOU WILL
BECOME... THE MASTER
OF... ALL MY WEALTH...



THERE'S NO HARM IN
DOING AS HE SAYS. YET
I'LL HAVE TO BE ALERT.
EXTRA ALERT!



AGAD DATTA WALKED UP TO THE CORNER OF THE
CREMATORIUM.

WILL THE MISTRESS
OF THE HOUSE AT THE END
OF THE PASSAGE COME
OUT? THE SADHU HAS
ASKED ME TO MEET
HER.



A LITTLE LATER A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN
EMERGED FROM AN OPENING IN THE GROUND.

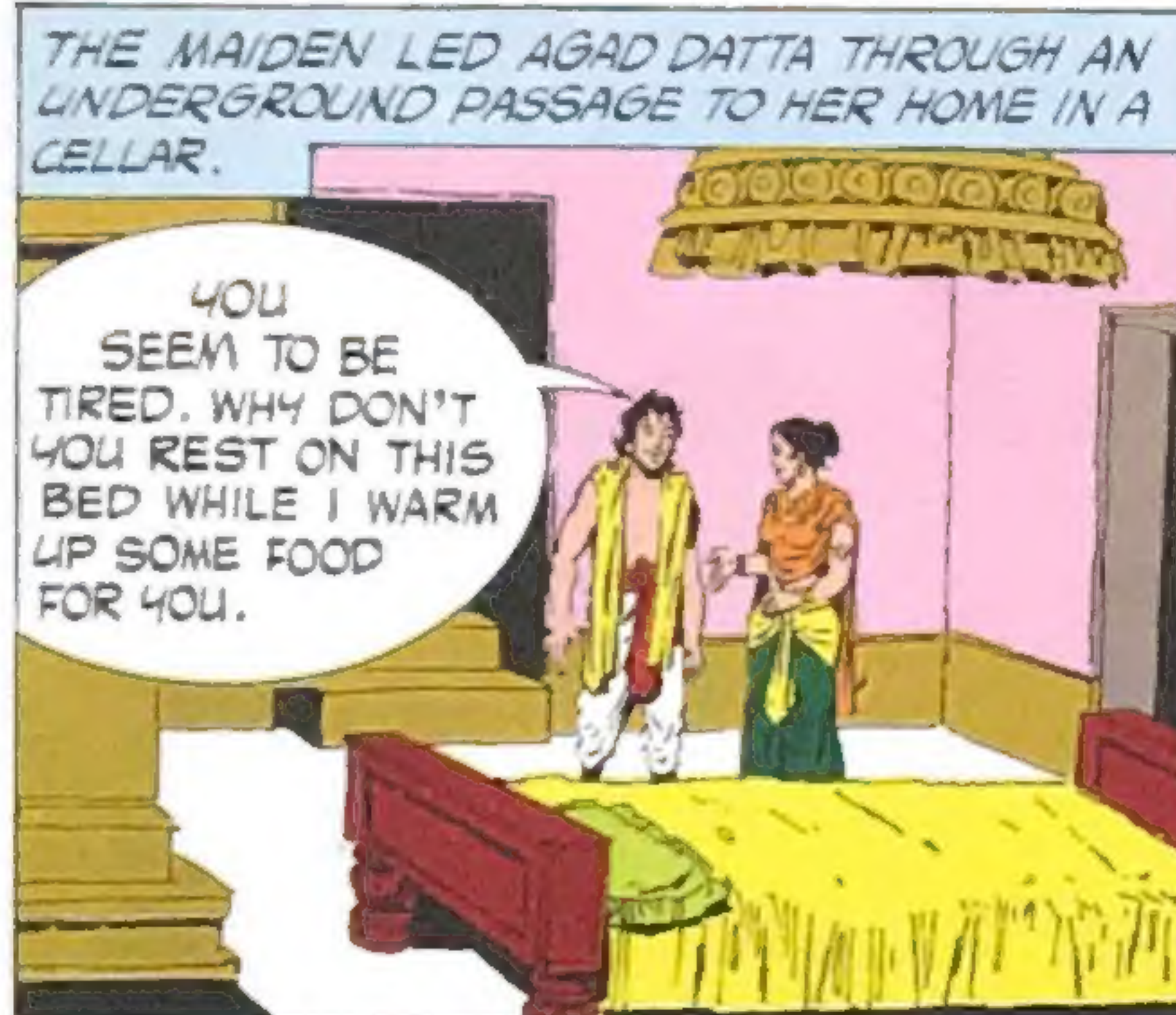
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?



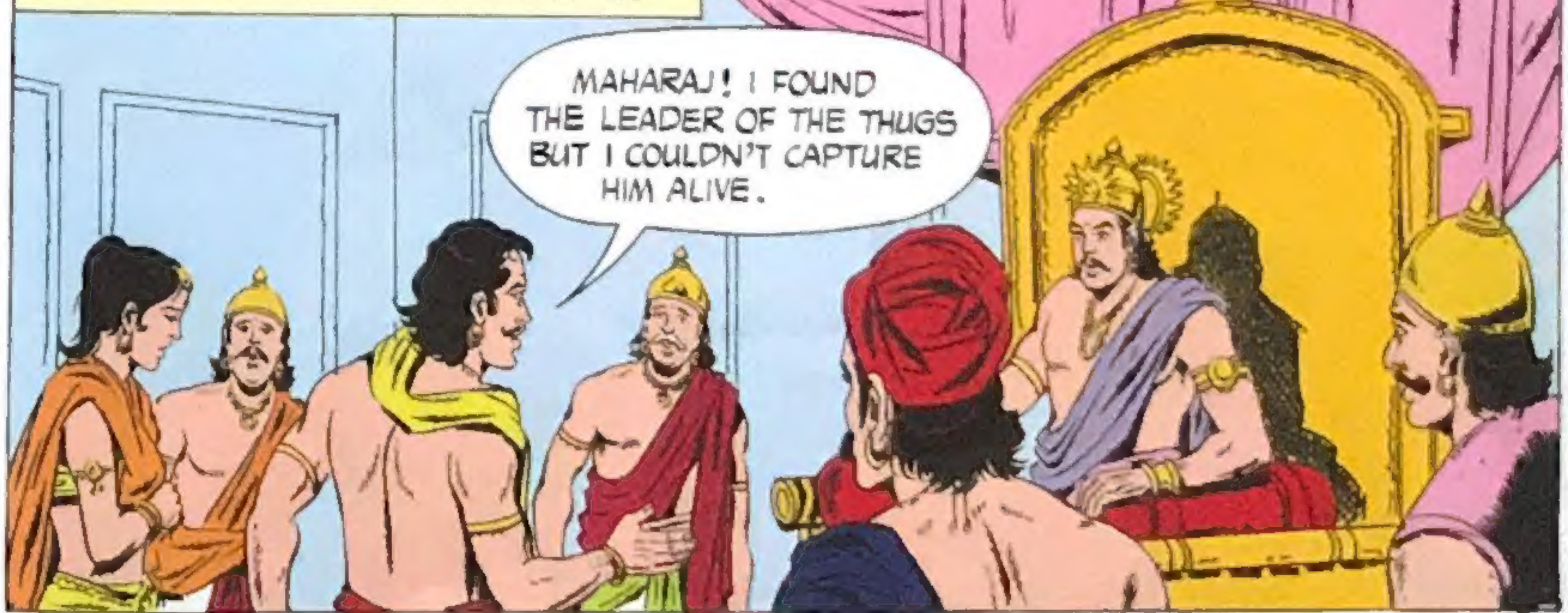
THIS WAS GIVEN
TO ME BY THE SADHU.
IT'S FOR YOU.



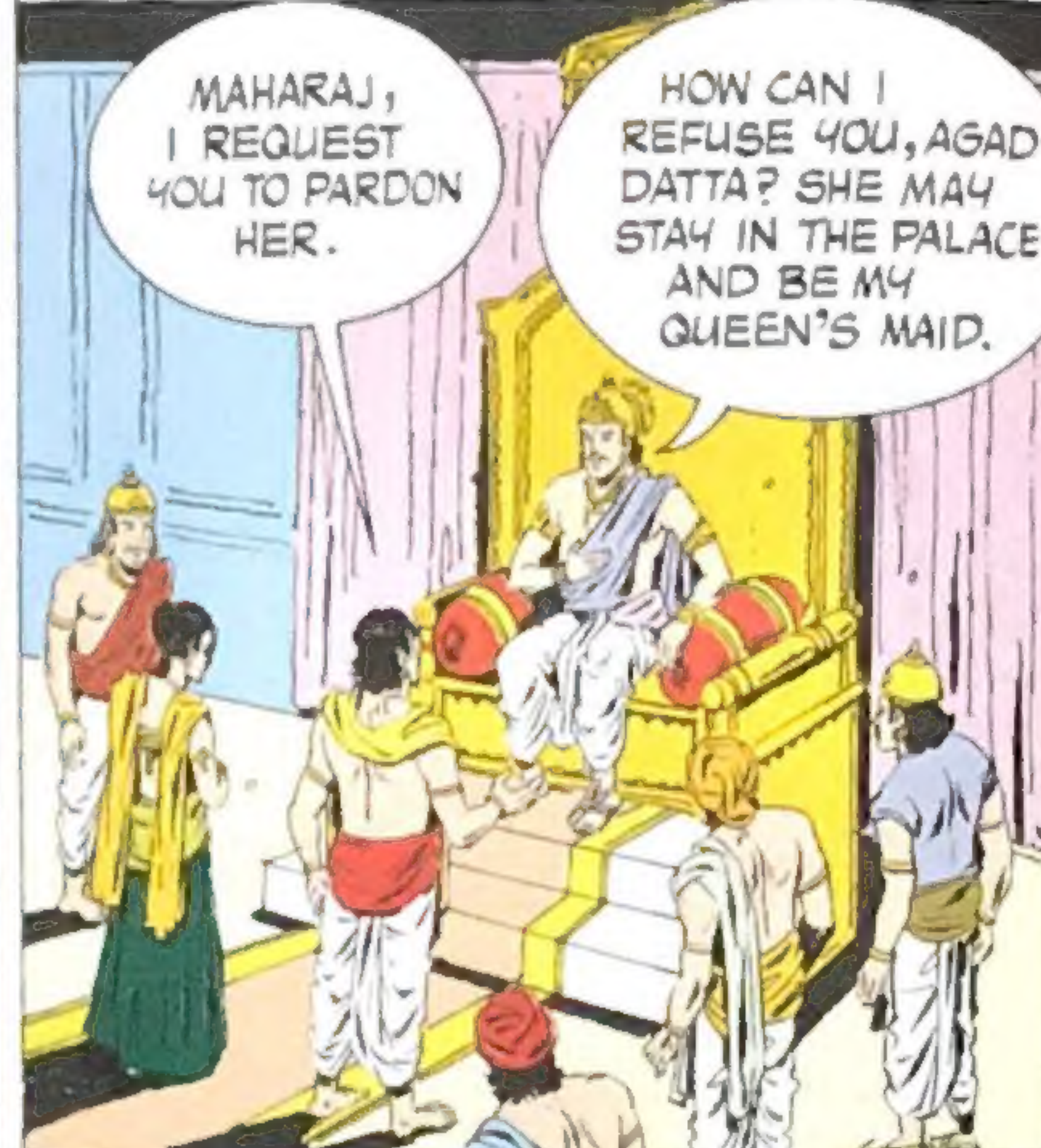
AS AGAD DATTA LAID HIMSELF DOWN—



AGAD DATTA TOOK HER TO THE KING.



AGAD DATTA THEN NARRATED ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.



THEN THE KING TURNED TO THE CHIEF OF GUARDS.



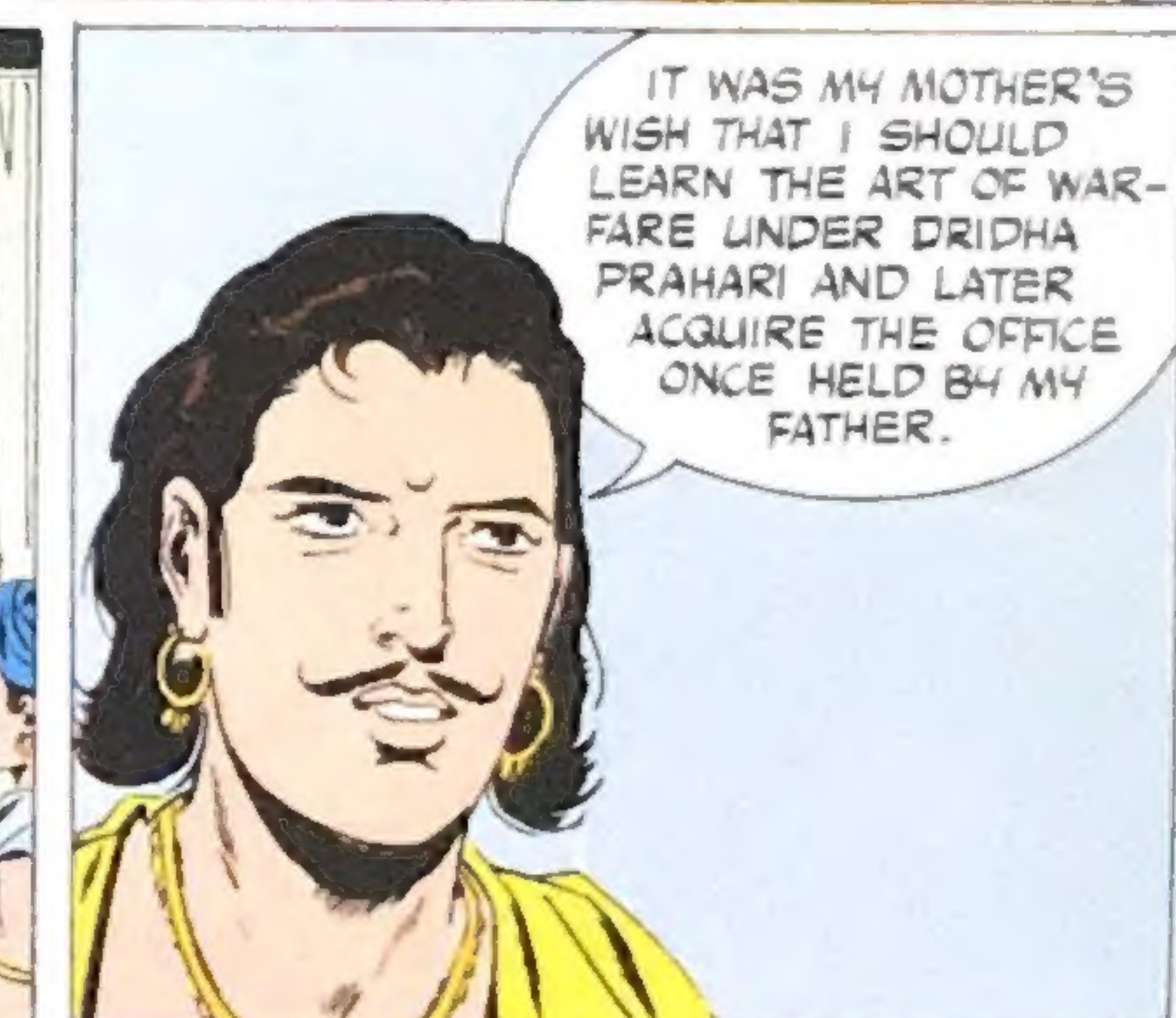
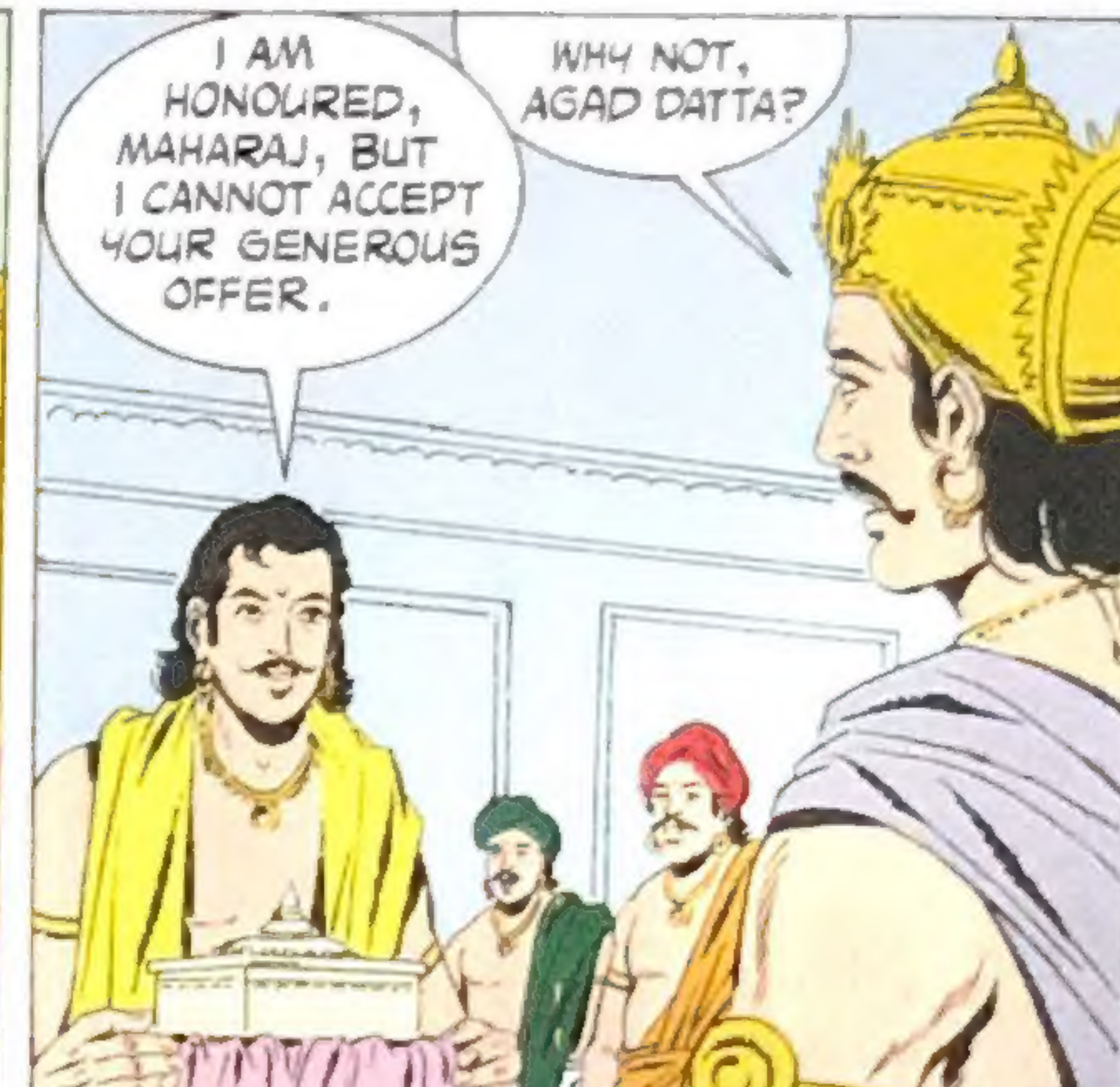
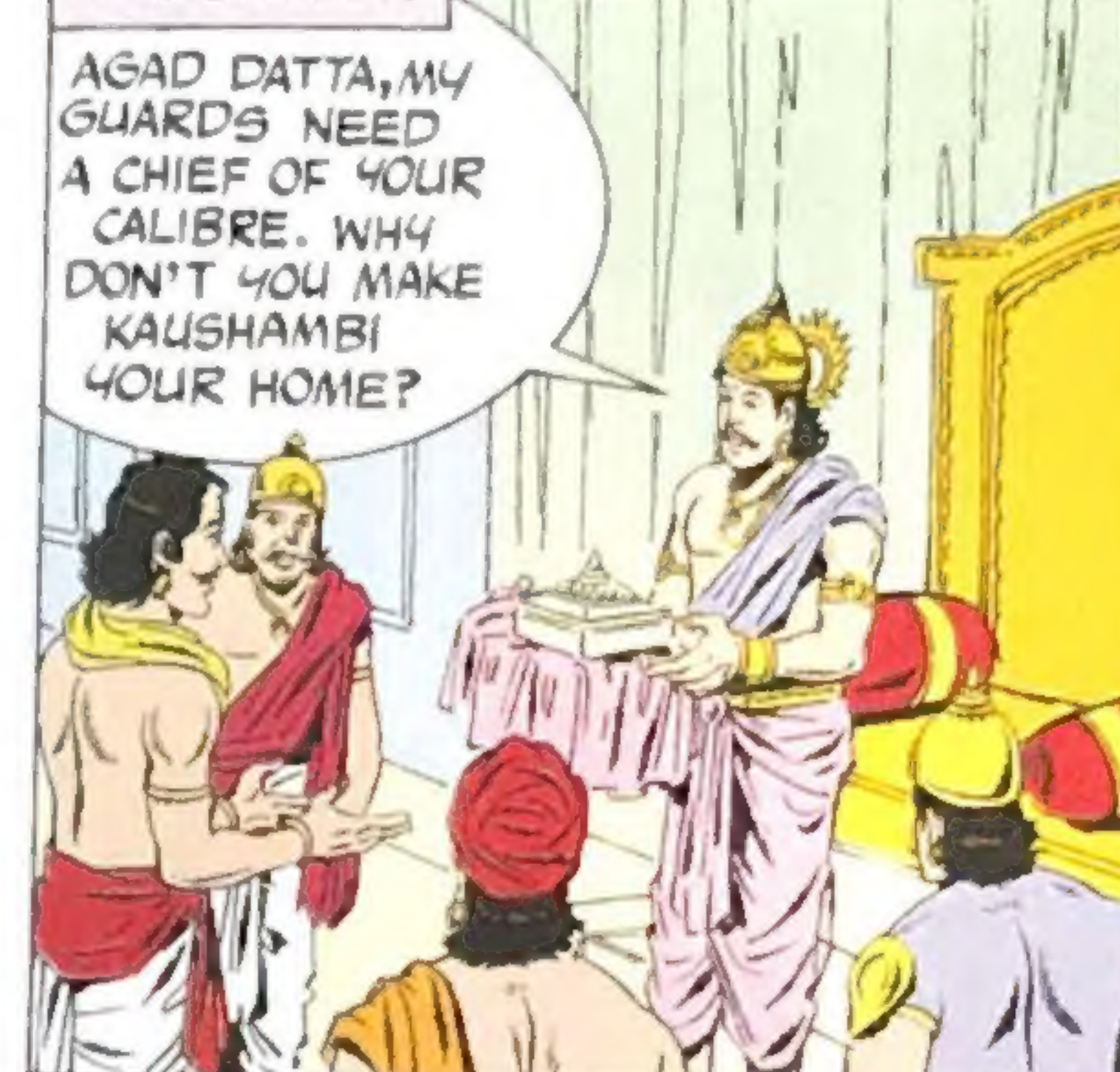
WHEN THE GUARDS REACHED THE SPOT THEY FOUND THE THUGS STILL ASLEEP UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE POWDER WHICH HAD BEEN SPRINKLED ON THEM.



THE RECOVERED WEALTH WAS RETURNED TO ITS OWNERS.



THE KING REWARDED AGAD DATTA HANDSOMELY.

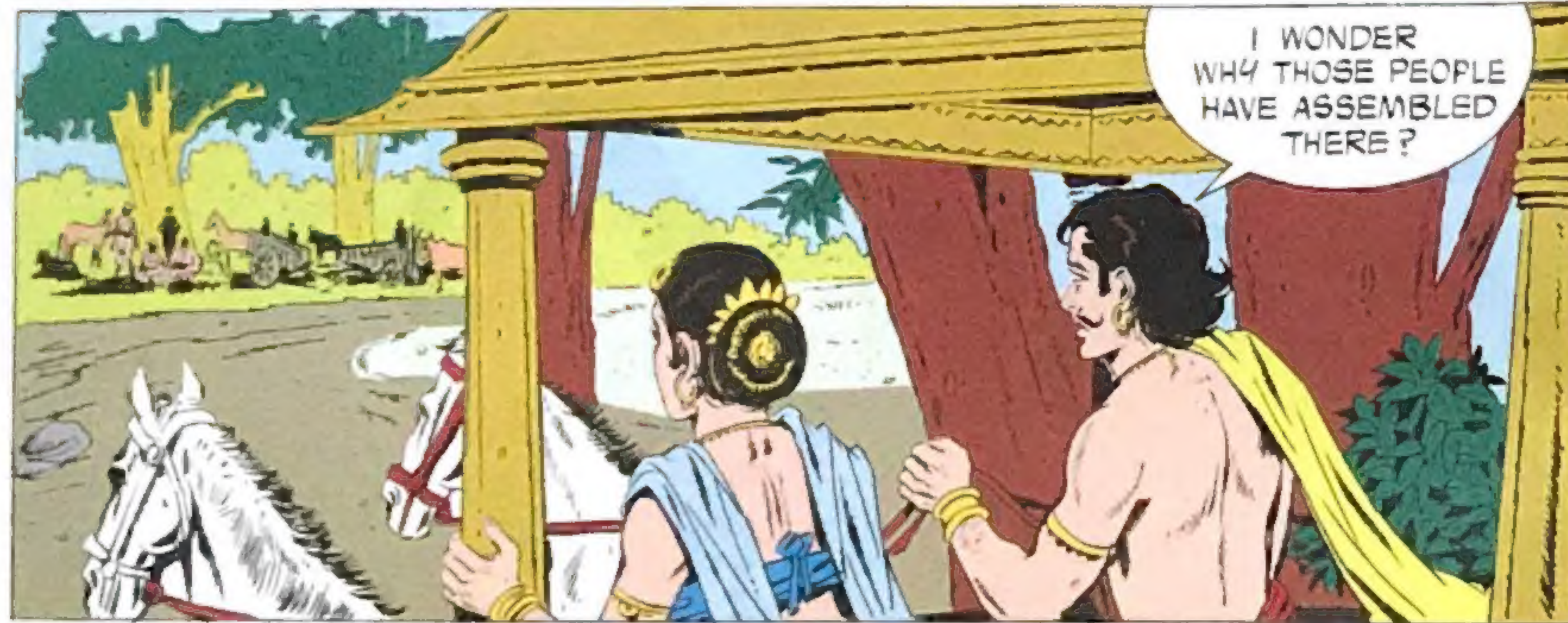


BEFORE LEAVING KAUSHAMBI, AGAD DATTA MARRIED SHYAMA, THE DAUGHTER OF DRIDHA PRAHARI'S NEIGHBOUR.

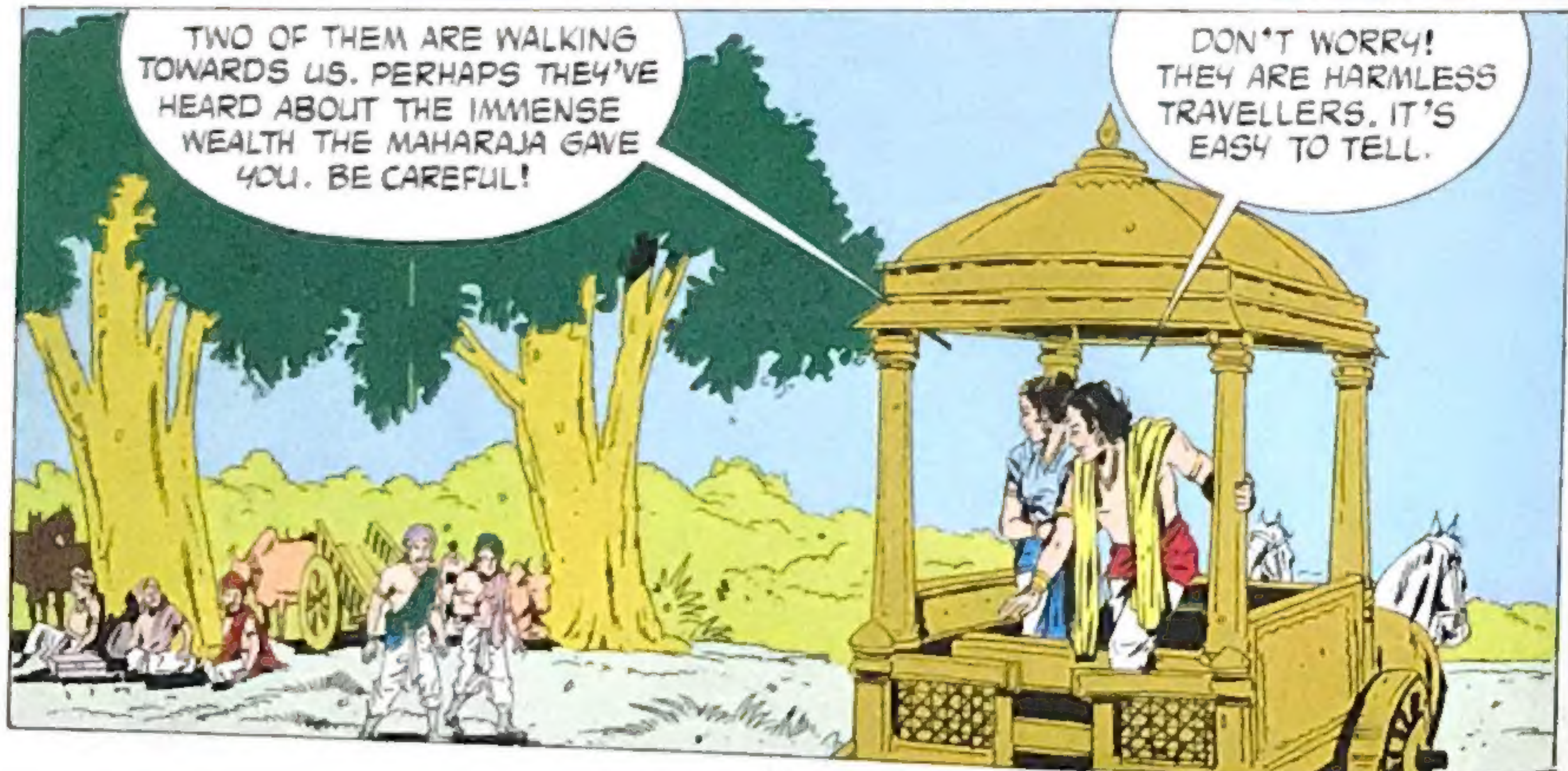


SON, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL PLEASE YOUR MOTHER MORE — THE SUCCESS YOU HAVE ACHIEVED OR THE BRIDE YOU ARE TAKING HOME!

WITH HIS WIFE BY HIS SIDE, AGAD DATTA RODE OUT OF KAUSHAMBI IN A BEAUTIFUL CHARIOT.



I WONDER WHY THOSE PEOPLE HAVE ASSEMBLED THERE?



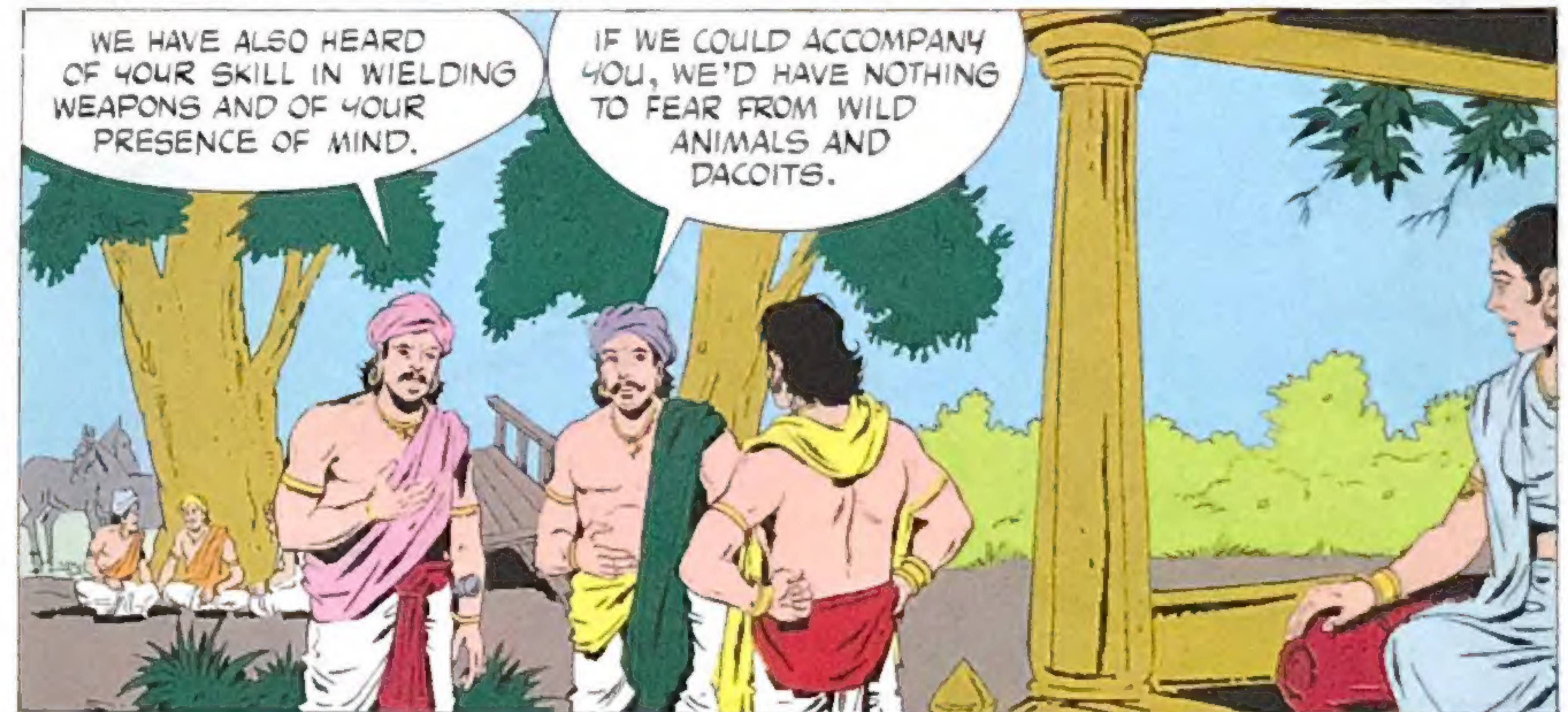
TWO OF THEM ARE WALKING TOWARDS US. PERHAPS THEY'VE HEARD ABOUT THE IMMENSE WEALTH THE MAHARAJA GAVE YOU. BE CAREFUL!

DON'T WORRY! THEY ARE HARMLESS TRAVELLERS. IT'S EASY TO TELL.



WE WELCOME YOU, AGAD DATTA. WE HEARD YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO UJJAYINI.

WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD IS TRUE.



WE HAVE ALSO HEARD OF YOUR SKILL IN WIELDING WEAPONS AND OF YOUR PRESENCE OF MIND.

IF WE COULD ACCOMPANY YOU, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM WILD ANIMALS AND DACOITS.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

AFTER A WHILE A SADHU CAME TOWARDS THEM.

COULD I COME WITH YOU TO UJJAYINI? I HAVE FIFTY COINS THAT WERE GIVEN TO ME BY A SADHU; AND I FEAR FOR MY SAFETY.

YOU ARE WELCOME.

THE NEXT MORNING AS AGAD DATTA HARNESS-
SED HIS HORSES AND GOT INTO HIS CHARIOT—



WHO IS THAT
YOUNG MAN?

DON'T YOU
KNOW? HE IS THE
FAMOUS AGAD
DATTA OF UJJAYINI.

THE VILLAIN WHO KILLED
MY FRIEND! THE FRIEND
WHO GAVE ME THE FIFTY
GOLD COINS! MY SEARCH
HAS ENDED.



TOWARDS EVENING, THEY REACHED A JUNGLE.



WE SHALL CAMP
HERE FOR THE
NIGHT.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE
CHOSEN A BETTER SPOT.
SHALL WE START COOK-
ING SOME FOOD?

WAIT! THIS PLACE
IS FAMILIAR TO ME. I HAVE
BEEN HERE BEFORE. THE COW-
HERDS LIVING NEAR BY HAD
ONCE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF
ME. I'LL GO TO THEM
AND SEE WHAT THEY
CAN OFFER.



HE SOON RETURNED WITH A HUGE VESSEL OF KHEER*.



MY FRIENDS HAVE
BEEN GENEROUS. THERE'S
ENOUGH FOR ALL
OF US.

GOOD! THAT
WILL SAVE US THE
TROUBLE OF
COOKING.

AS SOON AS THE KHEER WAS APPORTIONED—



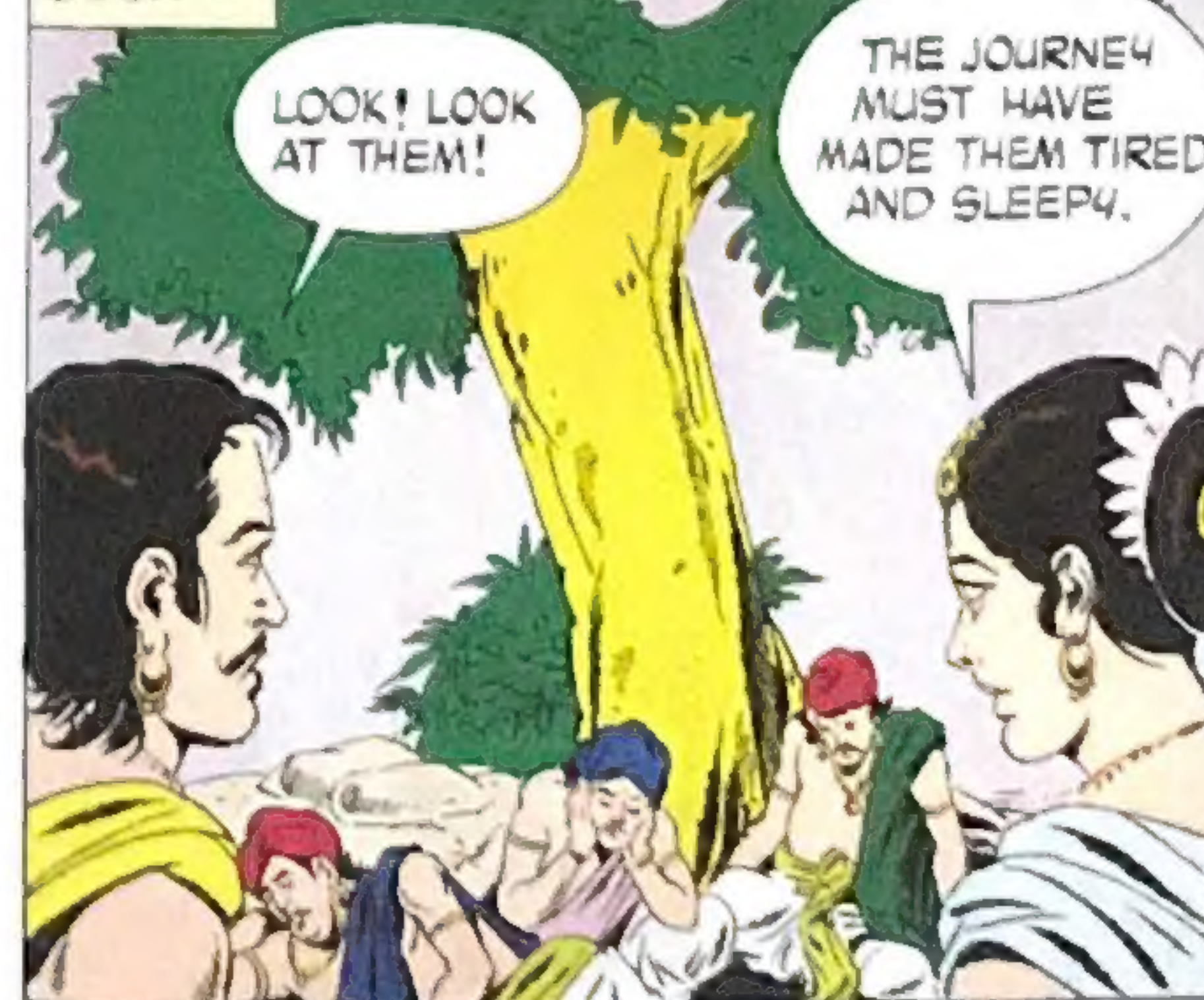
SHYAMA! WAIT!
IT'S NOT WISE TO EAT
FOOD COOKED BY STRAN-
GERS. DON'T EAT IT!

I'M HUNGRY.
BUT I WON'T EAT
IT, IF YOU SAY SO.

THE HUNGRY TRAVELLERS HOWEVER
SWALLOWED THEIR PORTIONS TO THE LAST
GULP.



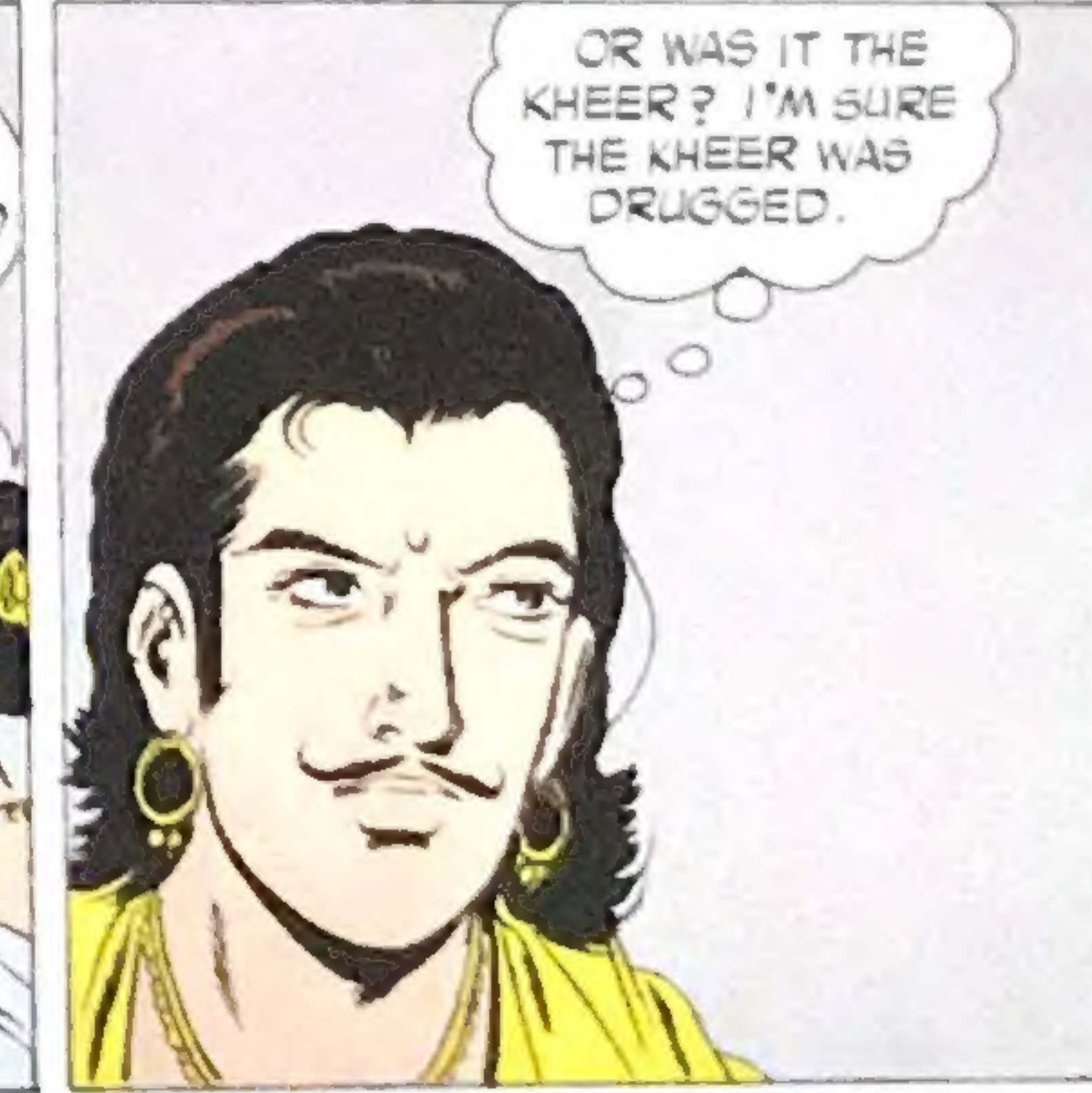
SOON—



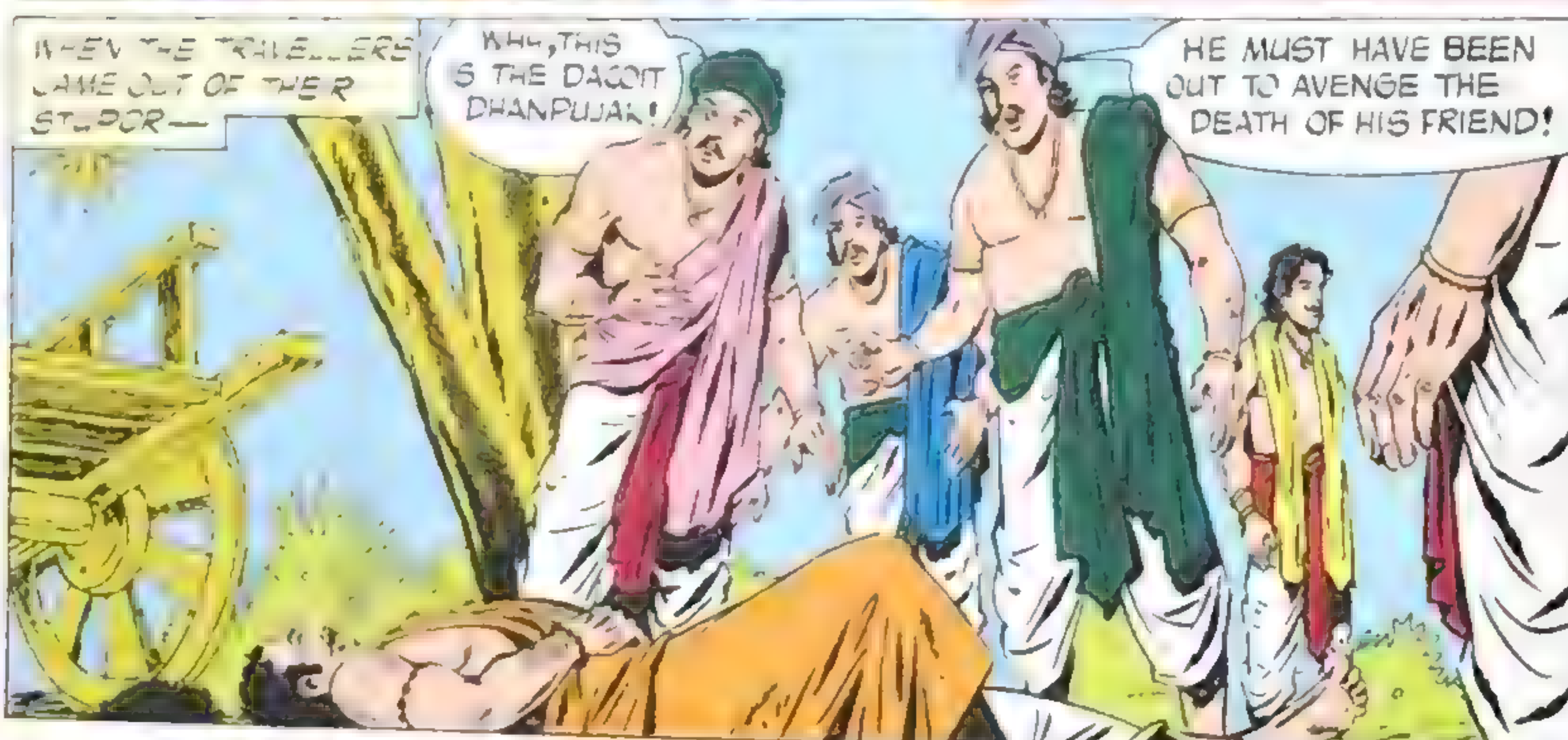
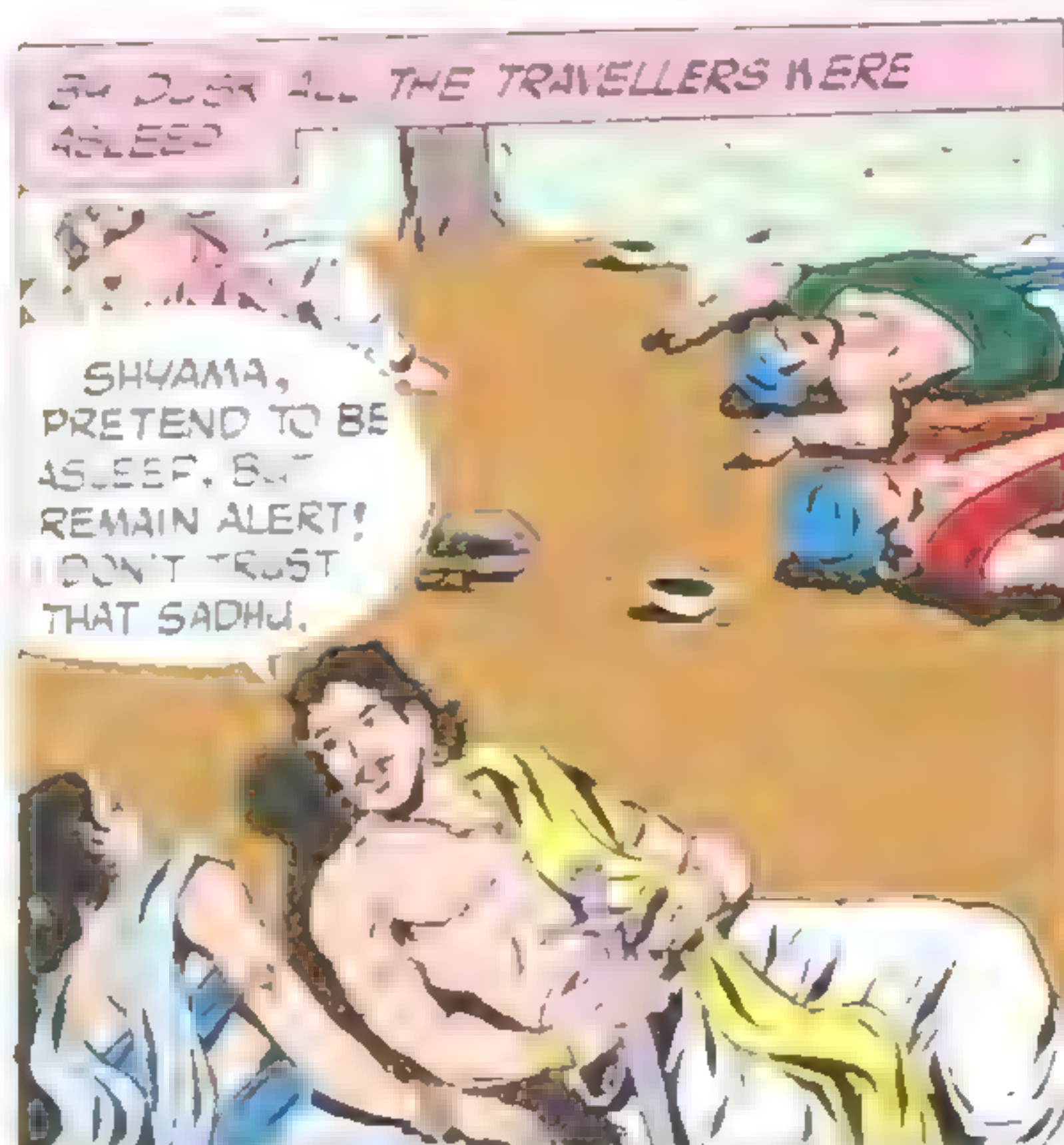
LOOK! LOOK
AT THEM!

THE JOURNEY
MUST HAVE
MADE THEM TIRED
AND SLEEPY.

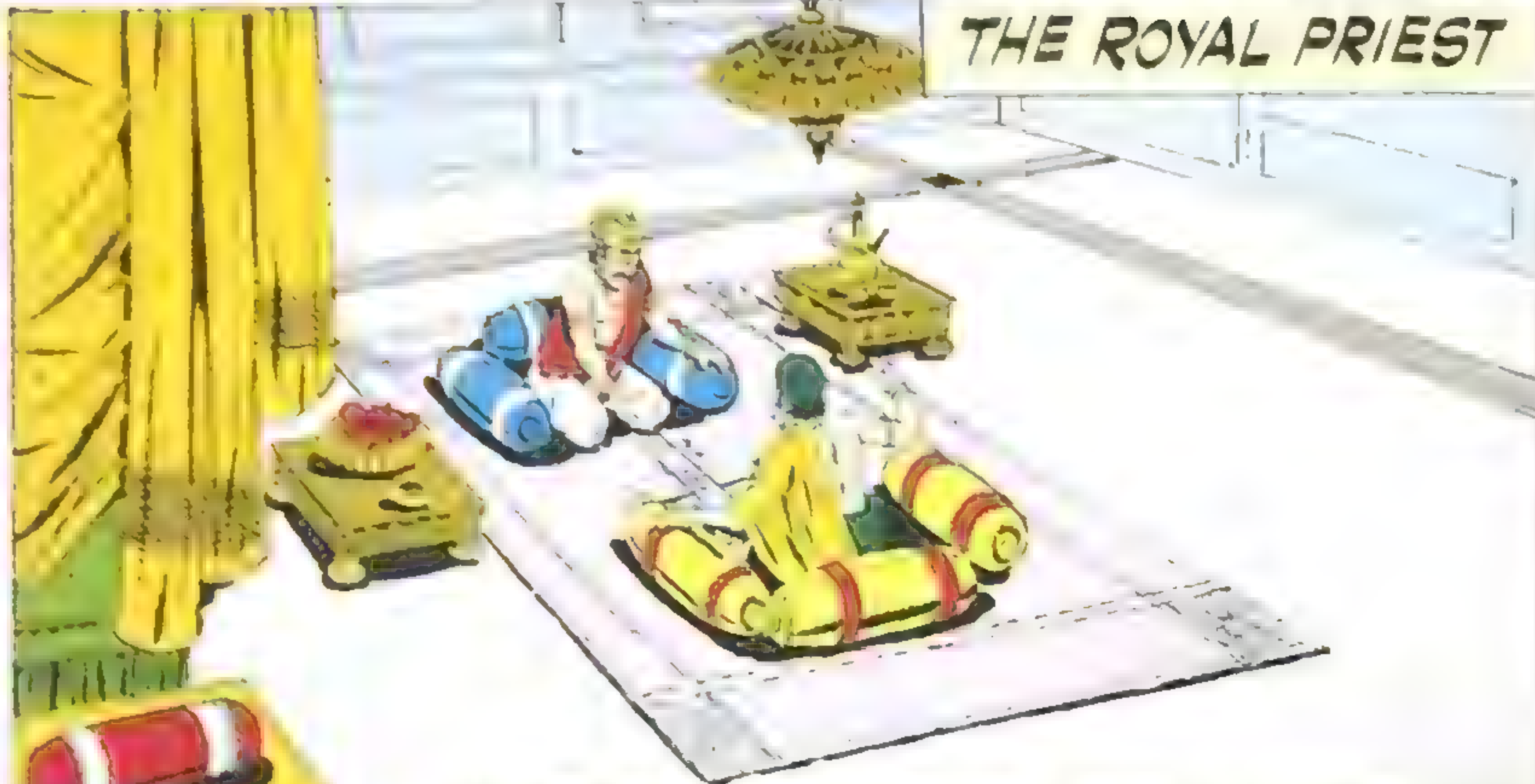
OR WAS IT THE
KHEER? I'M SURE
THE KHEER WAS
DRUGGED.



* PREPARATION MADE OUT OF MILK, JAGGERY AND RICE

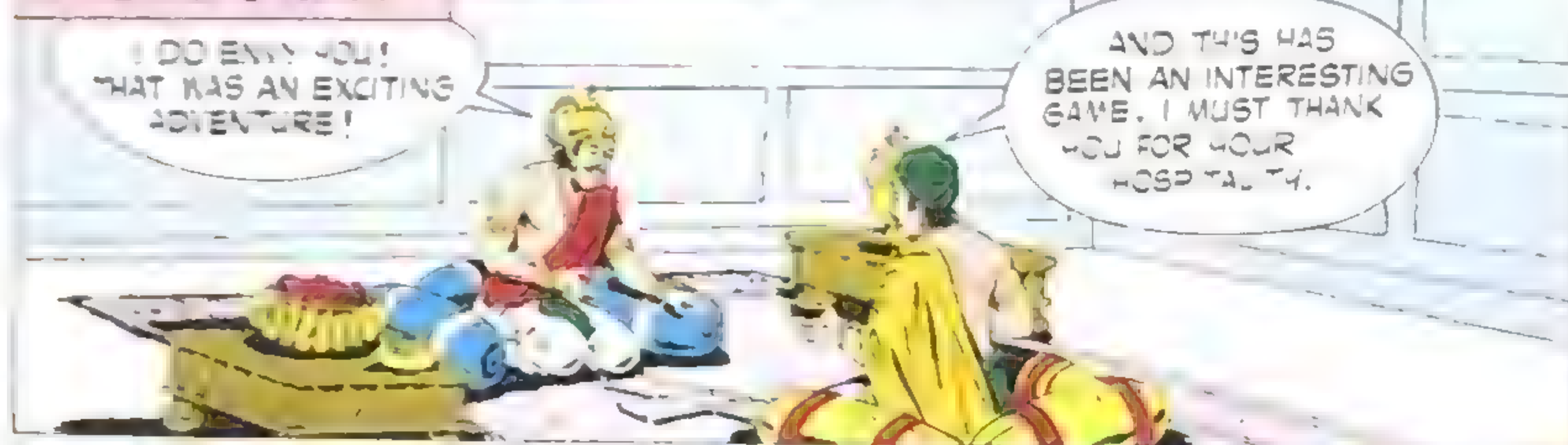


THE ROYAL PRIEST



THE KING OF SIMHAPUR LOVED TO HEAR OF THE ADVENTURES OF MERCHANTS WHO HAD SAILED TO DISTANT LANDS.

THAT WAS HOW BHADRAMITRA OF PADMAKSET ROUNDED HIMSELF AT THE KING'S COURT.



I DO ENVY YOU! THAT WAS AN EXCITING ADVENTURE!

AND THIS HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING GAME. I MUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.



WHEN WILL YOU BE SETTING SAIL AGAIN?

TOMORROW. THAT REMINDS ME—I NEED YOUR HELP.

I HAVE SOME GOLD WITH ME WHICH I WANT TO KEEP WITH SOMEONE TRUSTWORTHY.

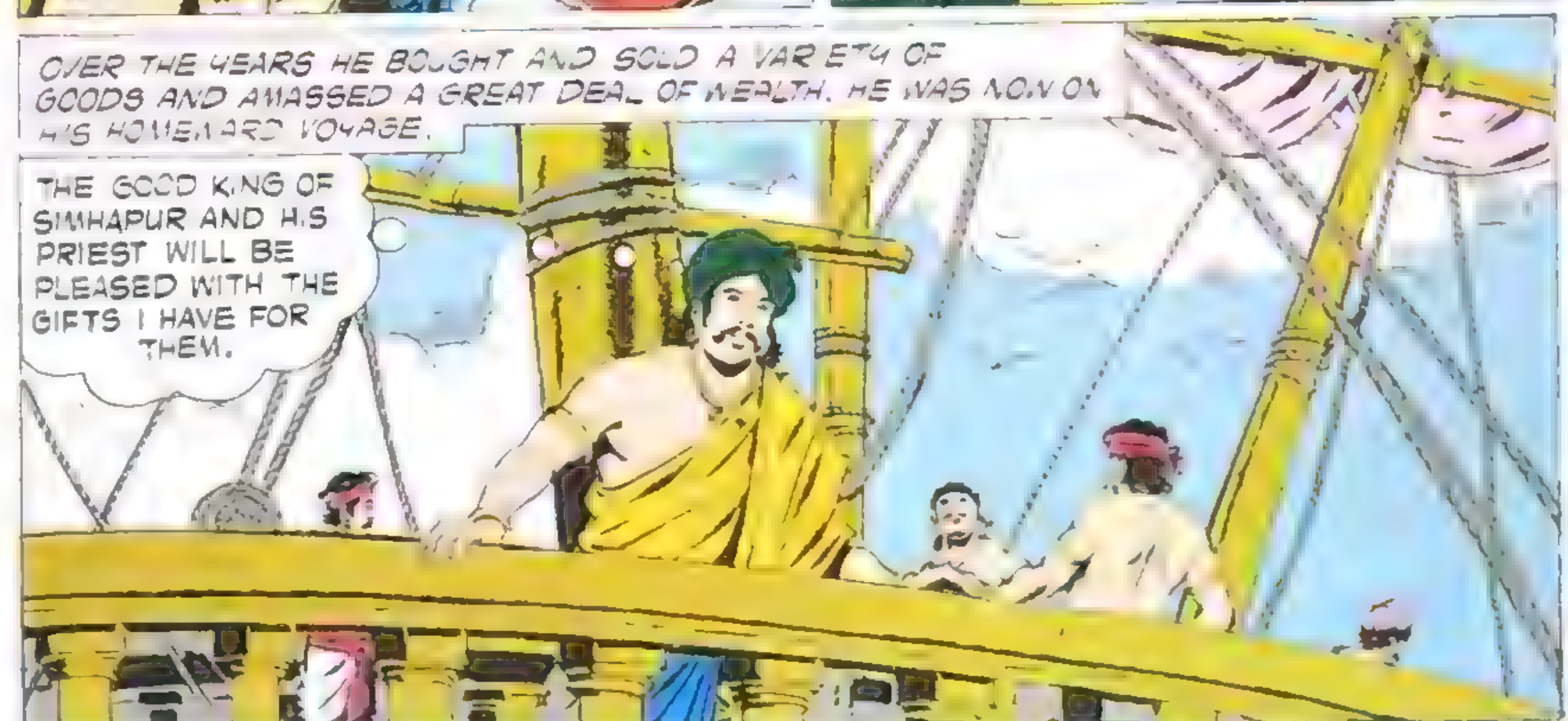
YOU CAN SAFELY LEAVE IT WITH MY PRIEST. A MORE HONEST MAN WOULD BE HARD TO FIND!

SO BHADRAMITRA LEFT A CASKET CONTAINING HIS GOLD WITH SHRIBHUTI, THE ROYAL PRIEST, AND SET SAIL IN SEARCH OF TRADE IN OTHER LANDS.



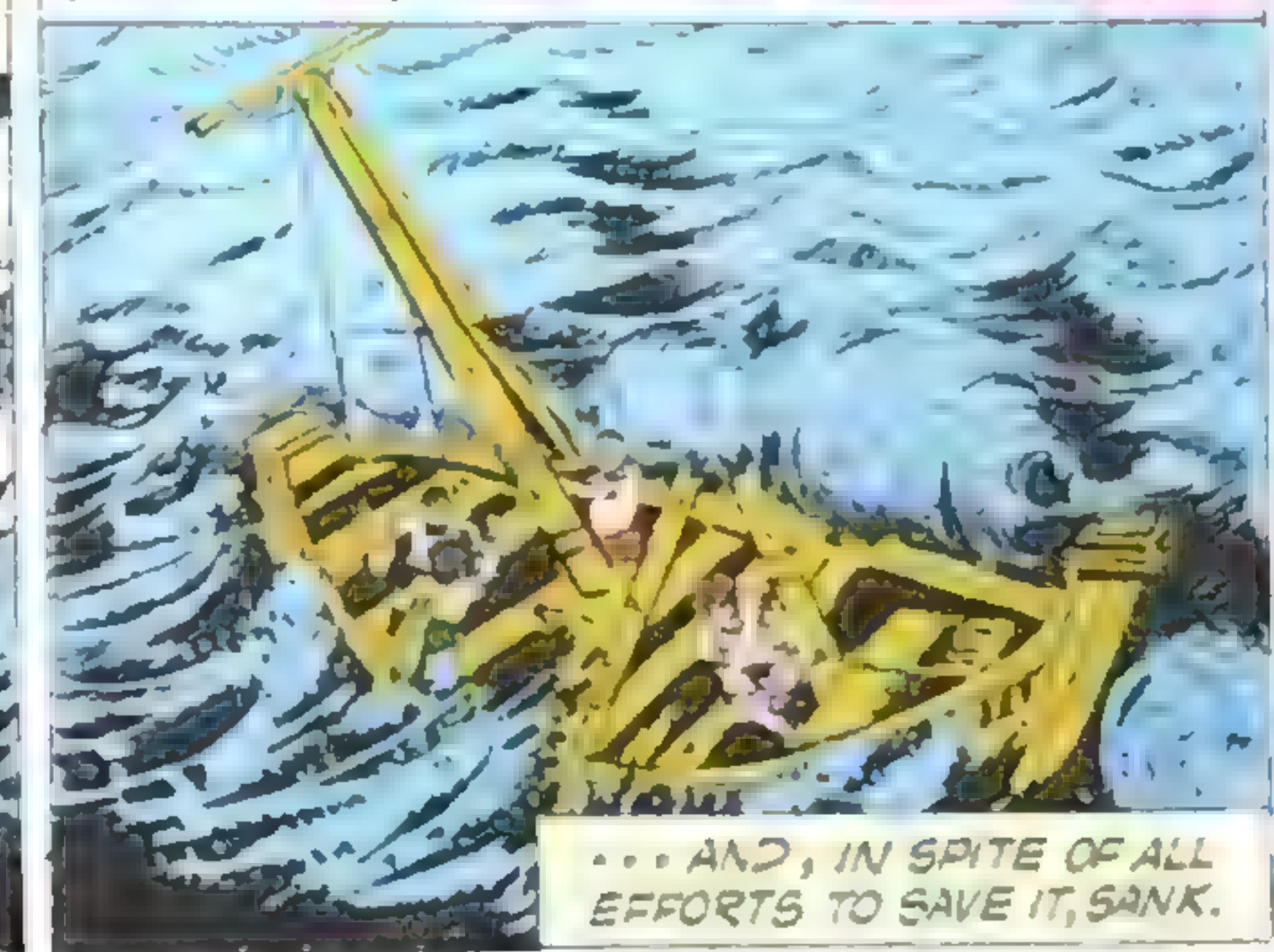
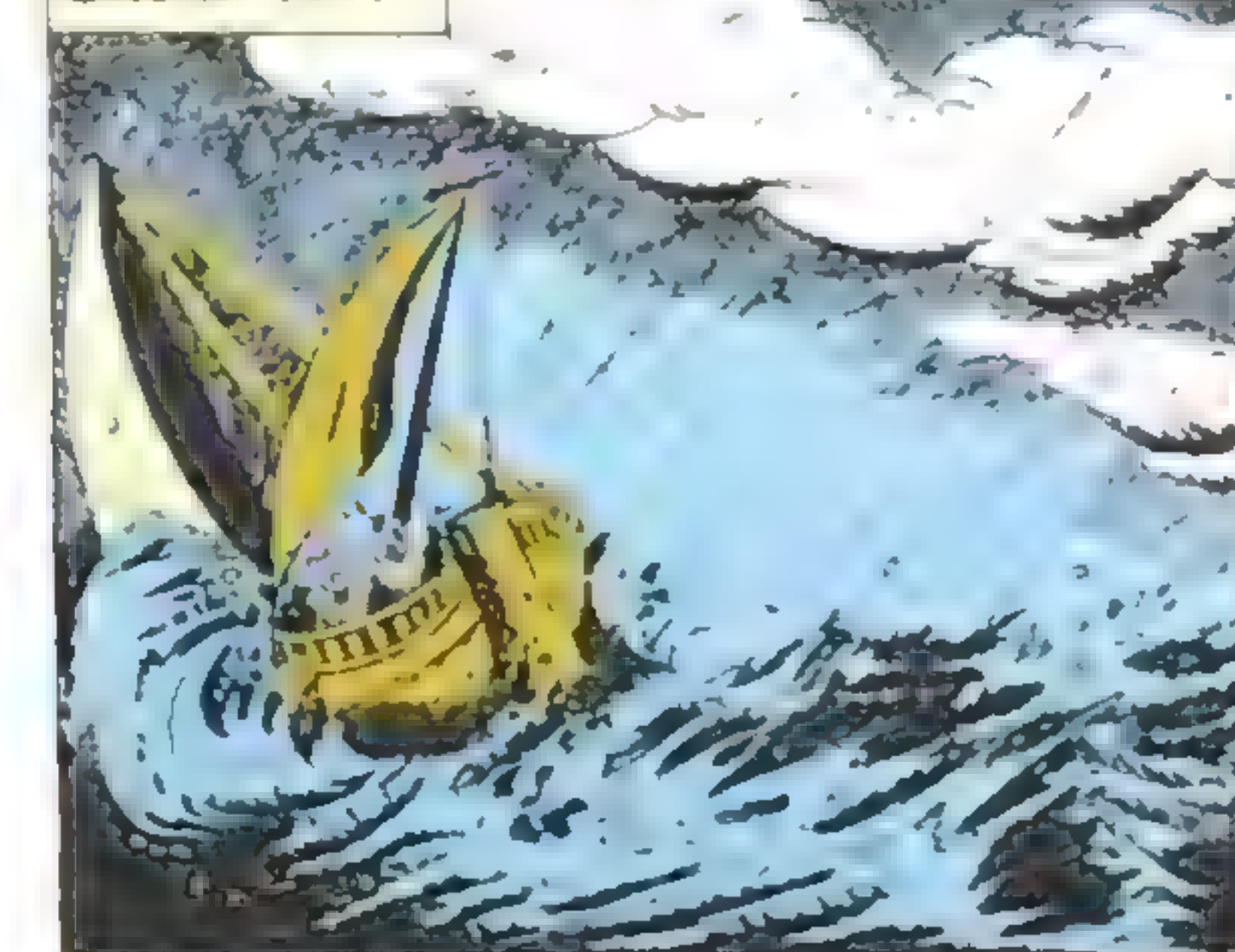
OVER THE YEARS HE BOUGHT AND SOLD A VARIETY OF GOODS AND AMASSED A GREAT DEAL OF WEALTH. HE WAS NOW ON HIS HOMELAND VOYAGE.

THE GOOD KING OF SIMHAPUR AND HIS PRIEST WILL BE PLEASED WITH THE GIFTS I HAVE FOR THEM.



AS BHADRAMITRA MUSED THUS, THE SKIES SUDDENLY DARKENED AND A STORM BROKE OUT.

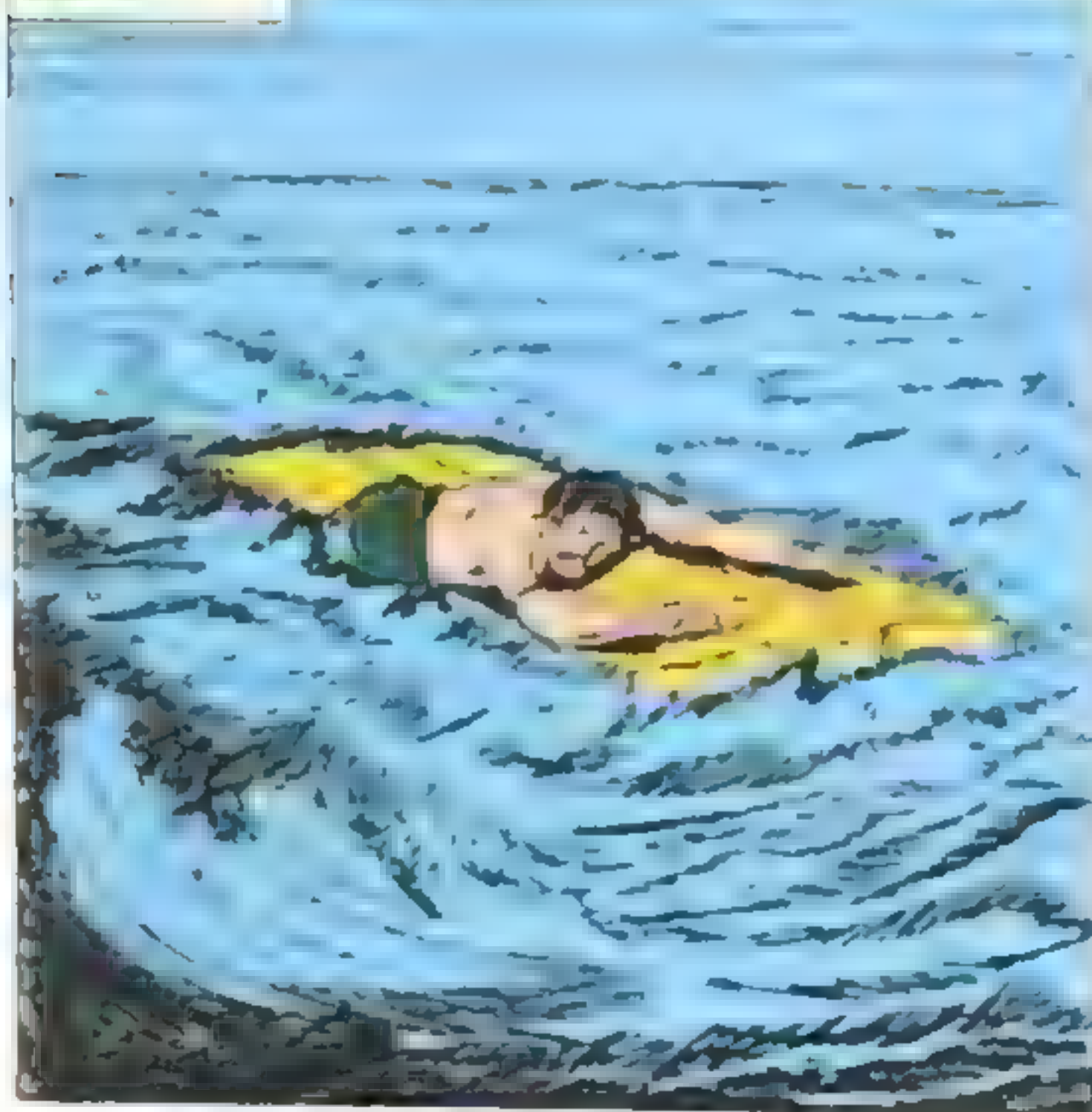
THE SHIP WAS MERCILESSLY TOSSED ABOUT...



...AND, IN SPITE OF ALL EFFORTS TO SAVE IT, SANK.



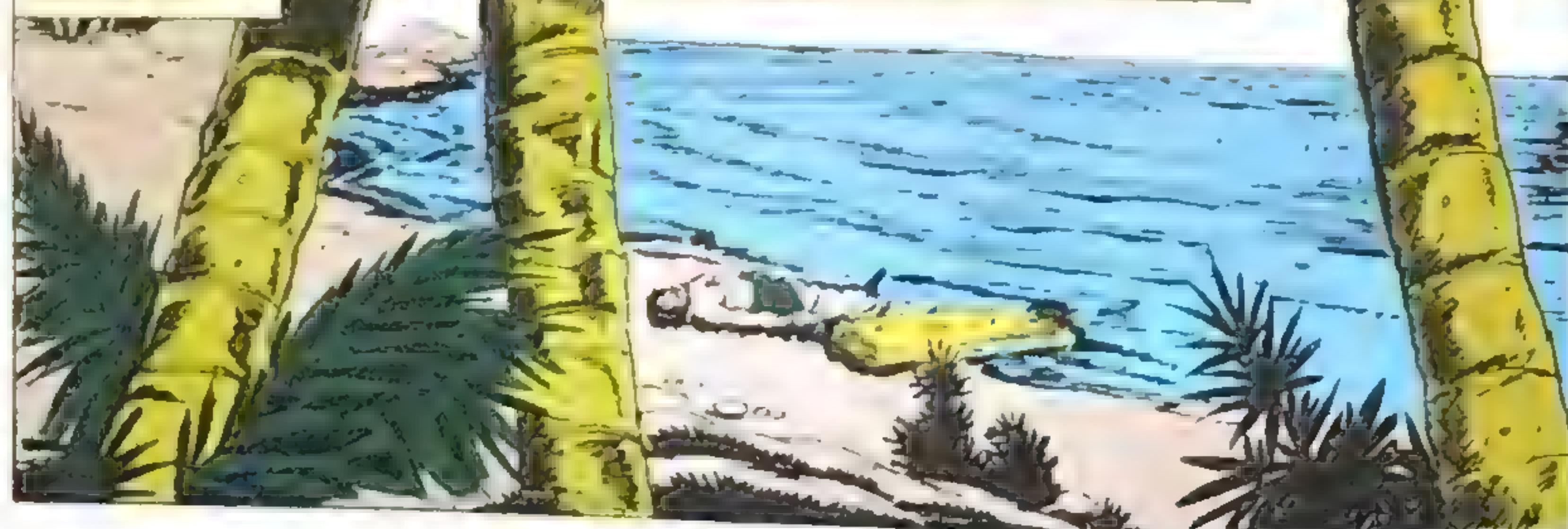
CLINGING TO THE PLANK FOR DEAR LIFE...



... BHADRAMITRA FLOATED ON THE SEAS FOR SEVERAL HOURS...



... AND WAS FINALLY WASHED ASHORE, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY OF SIMHAPUR.

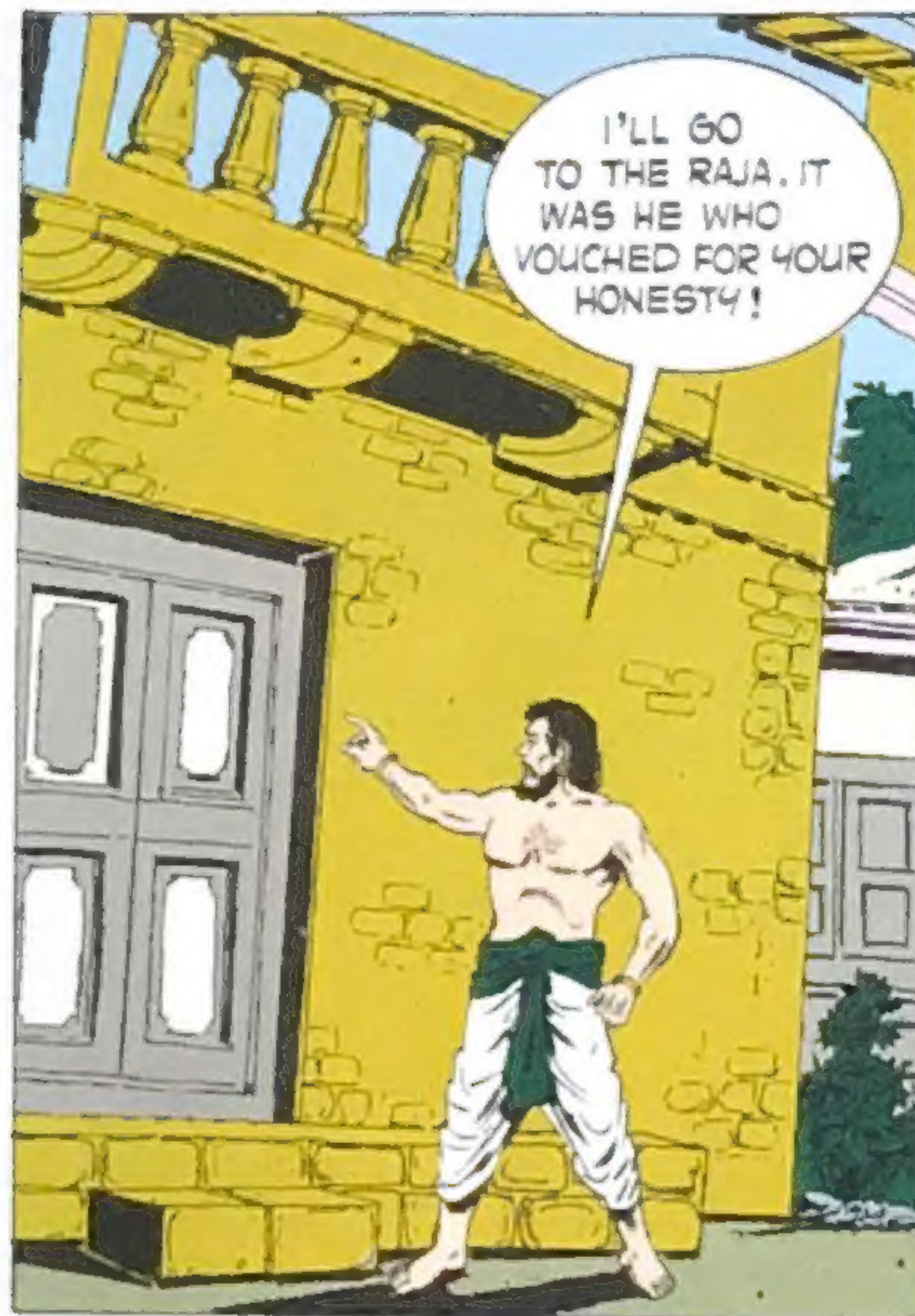


HOURS LATER, SHRIBHUTI HEARD A FEEBLE KNOCK AT HIS DOOR.



WHEN SHRIBHUTI OPENED THE DOOR...





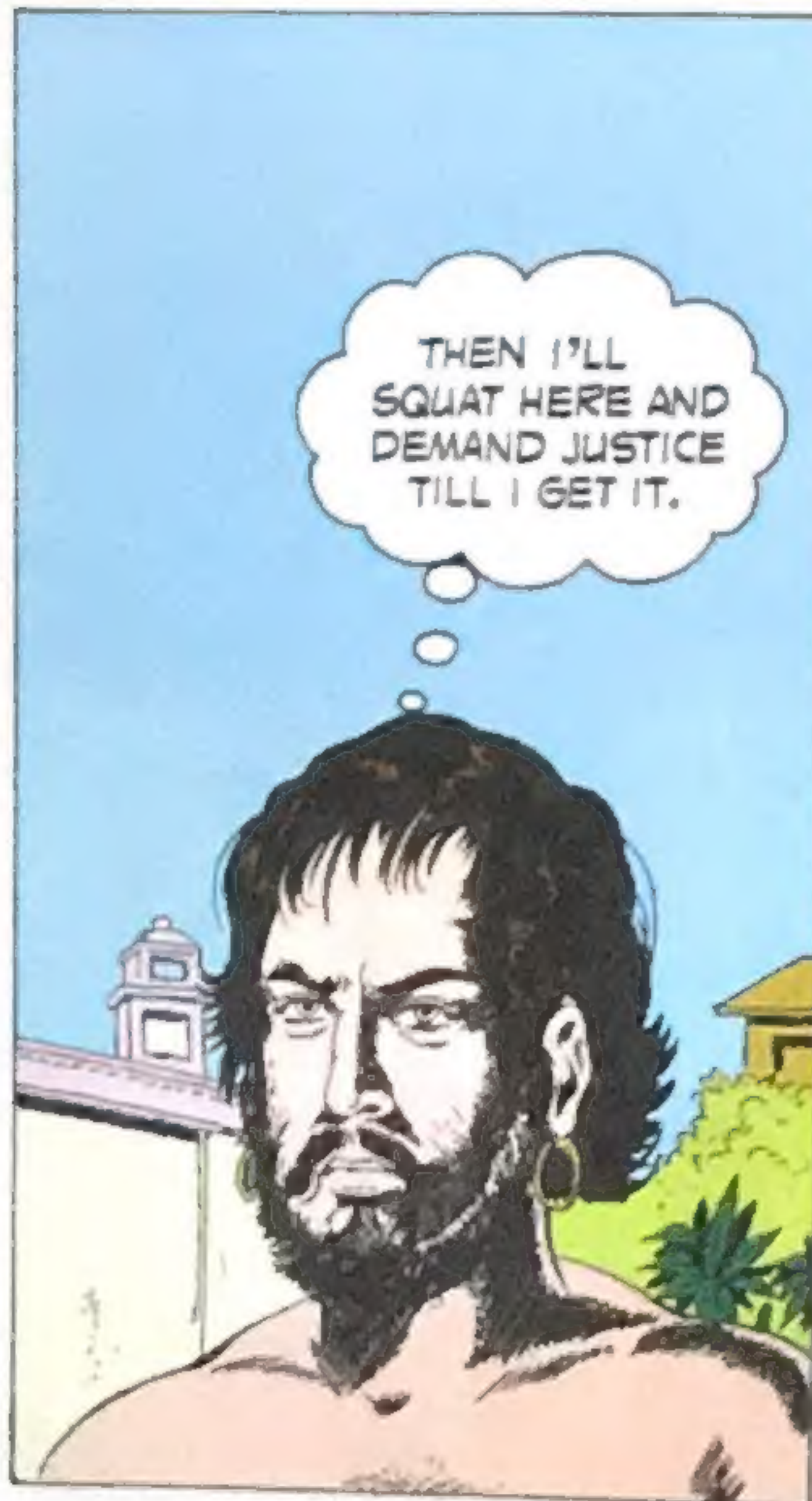
I'LL GO TO THE RAJA. IT WAS HE WHO VOUCHERED FOR YOUR HONESTY!



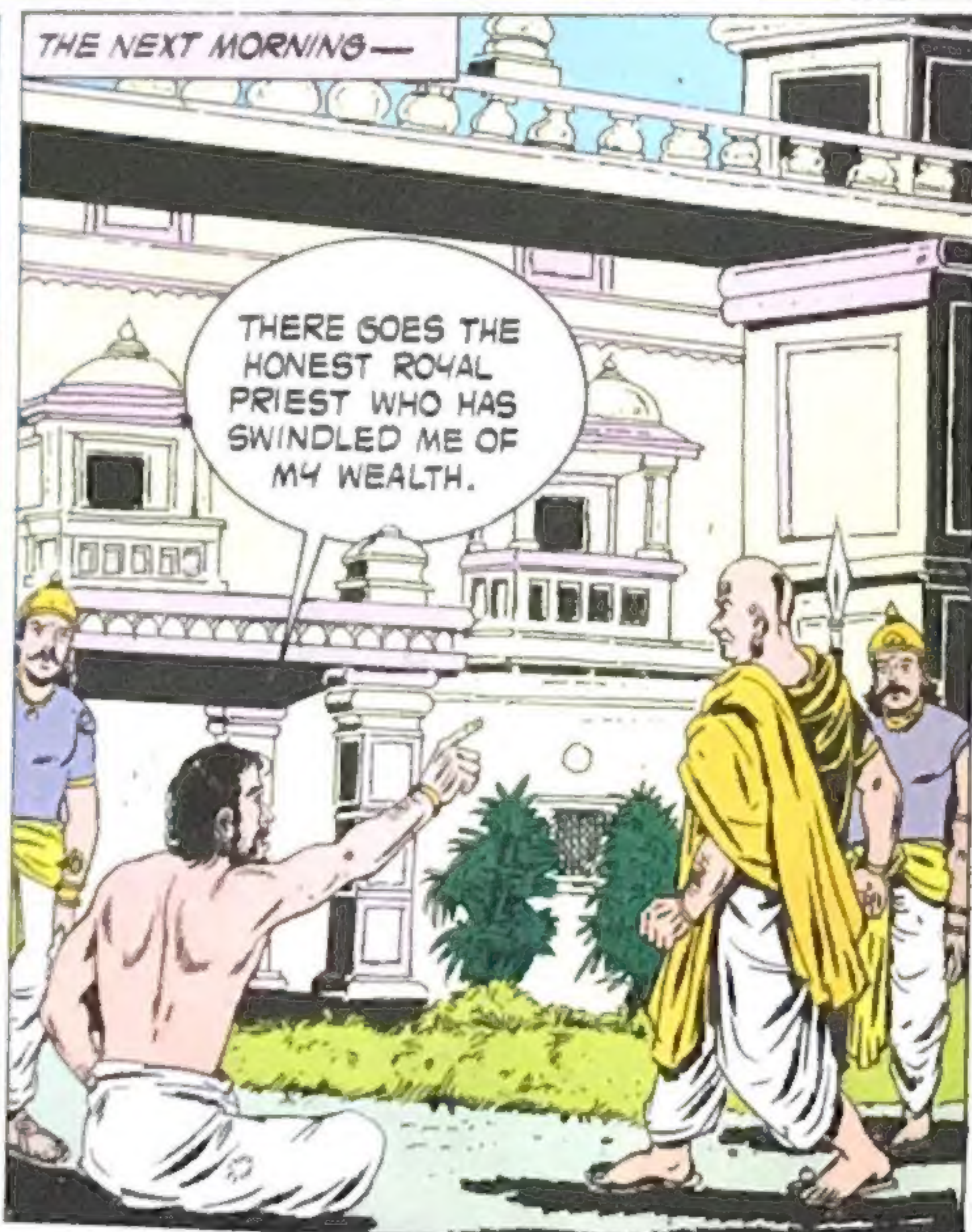
BUT AT THE PALACE HE MET WITH A WORSE FATE.

AWAY WITH YOU, YOU VAGABOND.

IF EVERY BEGGAR WHO COMES IS TO BE LET IN, WHY SHOULD WE BE POSTED HERE?

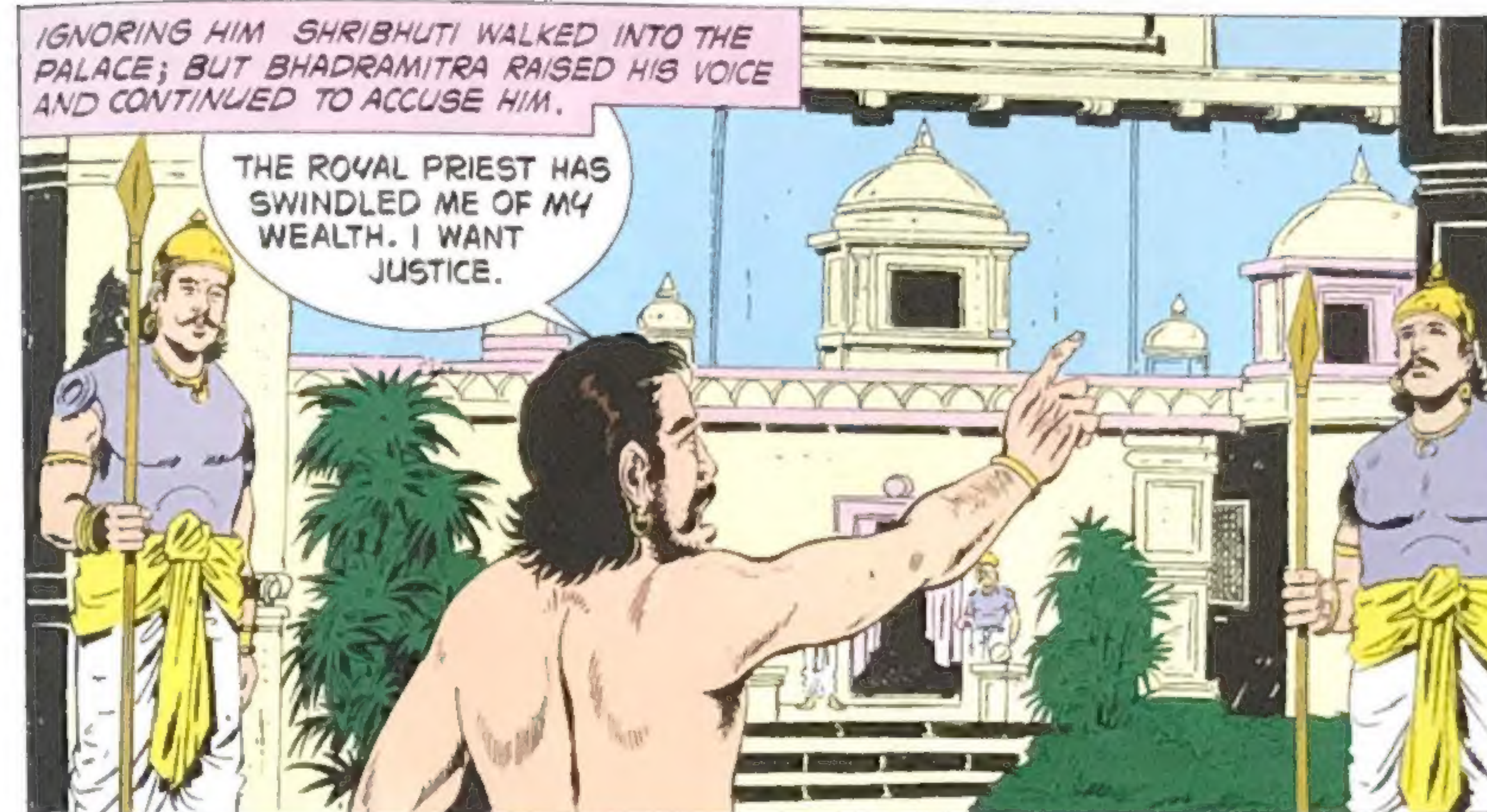


THEN I'LL SQUAT HERE AND DEMAND JUSTICE TILL I GET IT.



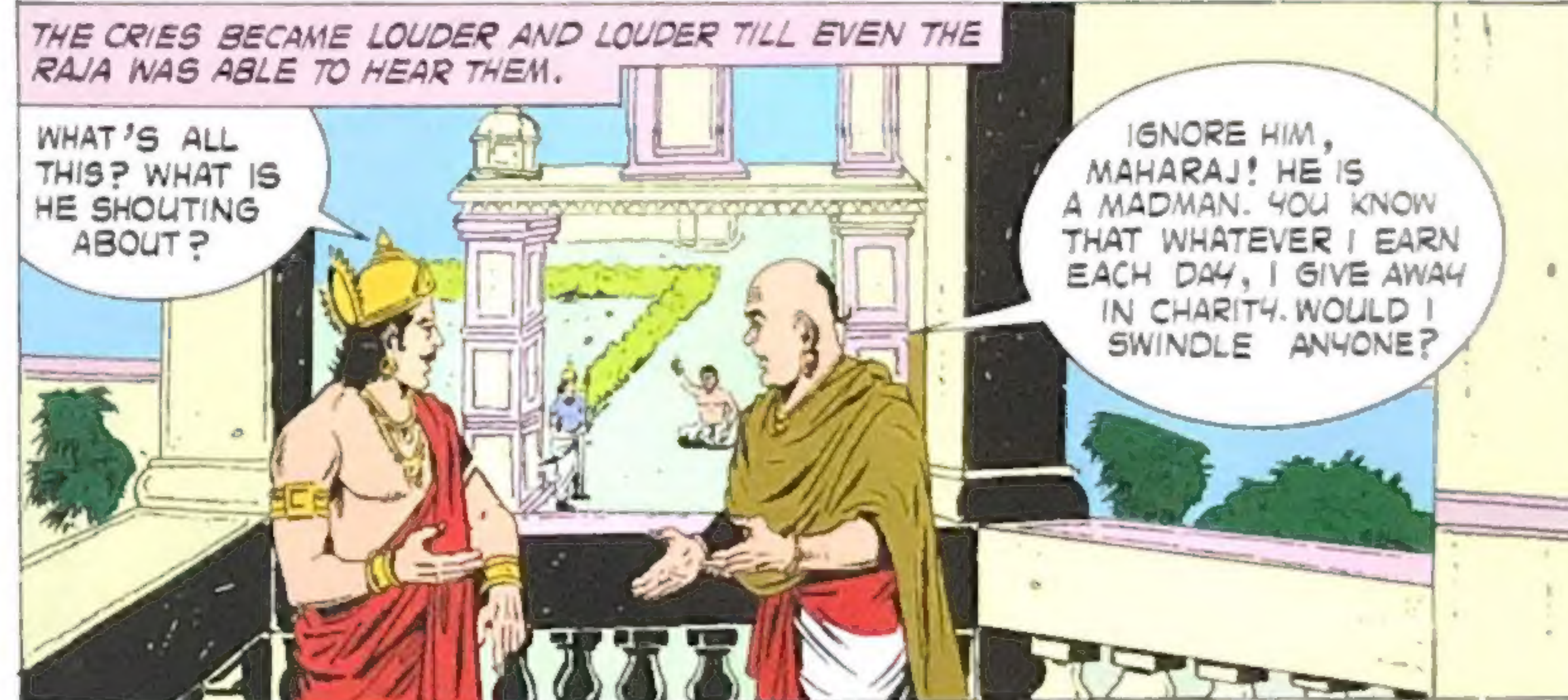
THE NEXT MORNING—

THERE GOES THE HONEST ROYAL PRIEST WHO HAS SWINDLED ME OF MY WEALTH.



IGNORING HIM SHRIBHUTI WALKED INTO THE PALACE; BUT BHADRAMITRA RAISED HIS VOICE AND CONTINUED TO ACCUSE HIM.

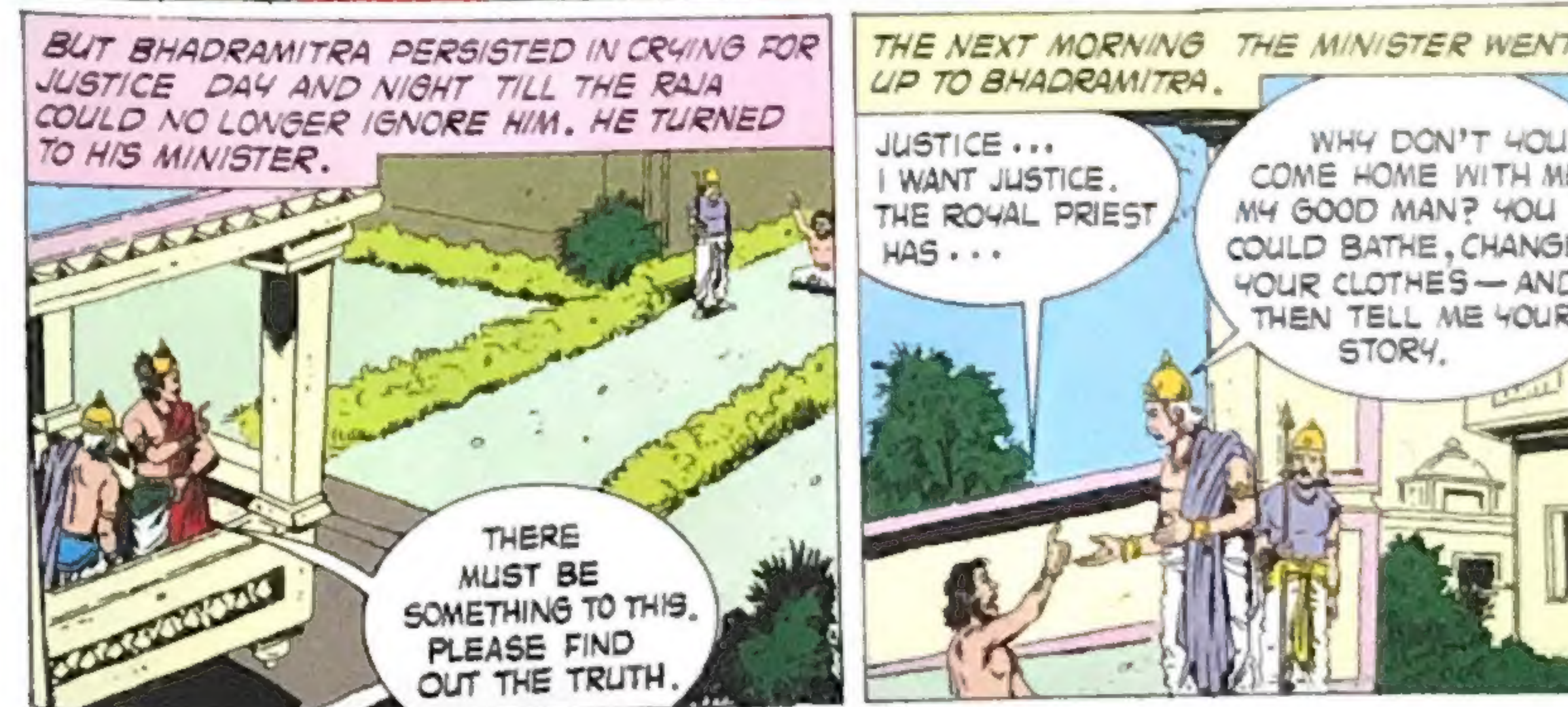
THE ROYAL PRIEST HAS SWINDLED ME OF MY WEALTH. I WANT JUSTICE.



THE CRIES BECAME LOUDER AND LOUDER TILL EVEN THE RAJA WAS ABLE TO HEAR THEM.

WHAT'S ALL THIS? WHAT IS HE SHOUTING ABOUT?

IGNORE HIM, MAHARAJ! HE IS A MADMAN. YOU KNOW THAT WHATEVER I EARN EACH DAY, I GIVE AWAY IN CHARITY. WOULD I SWINDLE ANYONE?



BUT BHADRAMITRA PERSISTED IN CRYING FOR JUSTICE DAY AND NIGHT TILL THE RAJA COULD NO LONGER IGNORE HIM. HE TURNED TO HIS MINISTER.

THE NEXT MORNING THE MINISTER WENT UP TO BHADRAMITRA.

JUSTICE... I WANT JUSTICE. THE ROYAL PRIEST HAS...

WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME WITH ME, MY GOOD MAN? YOU COULD BATHE, CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES—AND THEN TELL ME YOUR STORY.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO THIS. PLEASE FIND OUT THE TRUTH.

BHADRAMITRA COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS GOOD FORTUNE. SOMEONE WAS AT LAST WILLING TO LISTEN TO HIS TALE.

THANK YOU, KIND SIR. I'LL COME WITH YOU. I... I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU... I...



LATER AT THE MINISTER'S HOUSE—

SO THAT'S IT. DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF... ANY DOCUMENT TO SUPPORT YOUR STORY?

I'M AFRAID I DON'T, GOOD SIR. I DIDN'T THINK IT NECESSARY WHEN THE MAN WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE RAJA HIMSELF.



AT THE PALACE, THE NEXT DAY—

NEVER MIND. STAY ON IN MY HOUSE AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

...THAT'S HIS STORY, AND I'M INCLINED TO BELIEVE HIM.

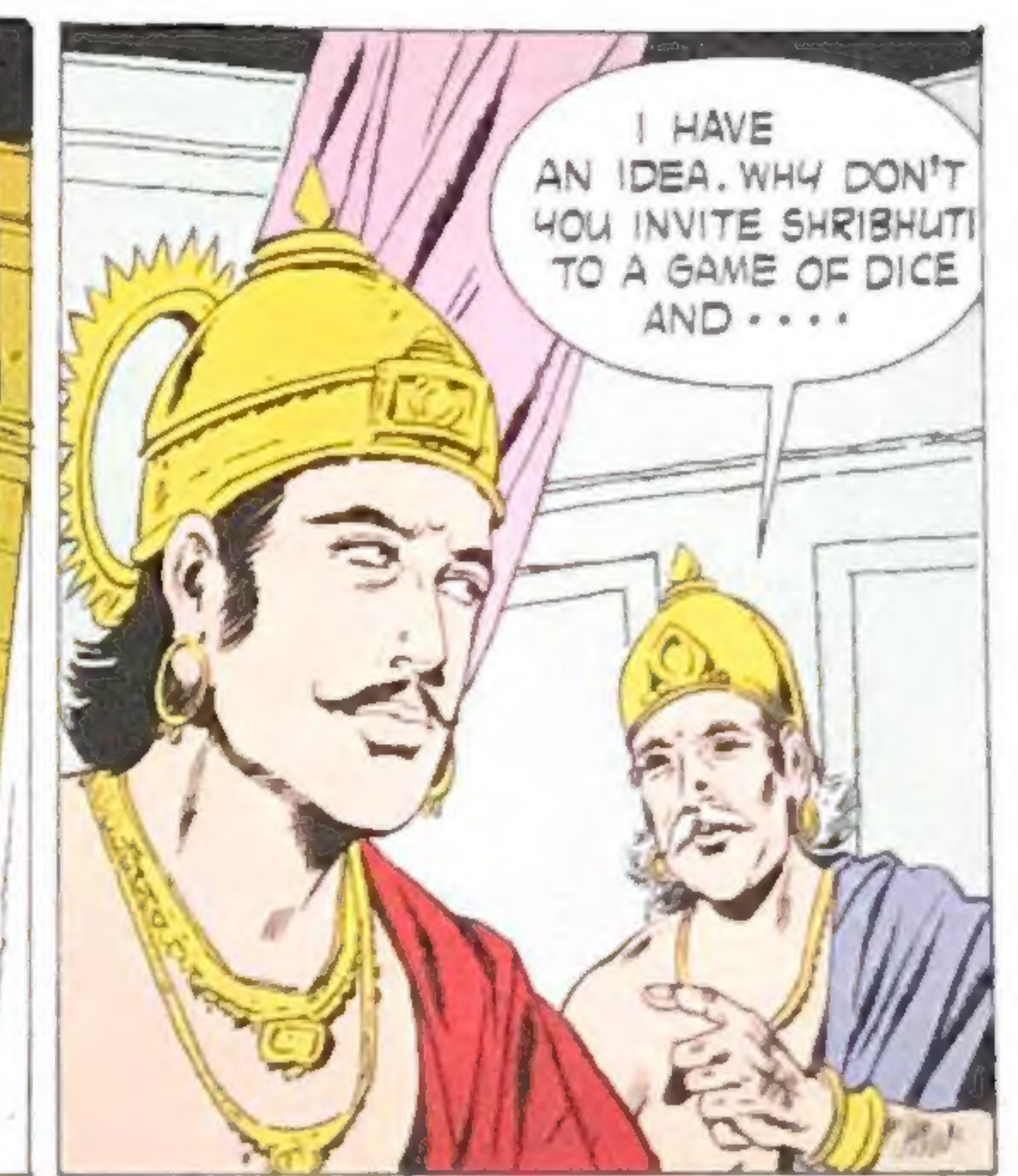
NOW THAT YOU TELL ME, I HAVE A VAGUE MEMORY OF THE INCIDENT. BUT...



... SHRIBHUTI FLATLY DENIES THAT HE TOOK ANY GOLD FROM THE MERCHANT. AND WE HAVE NO PROOF!



I HAVE AN IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU INVITE SHRIBHUTI TO A GAME OF DICE AND ...



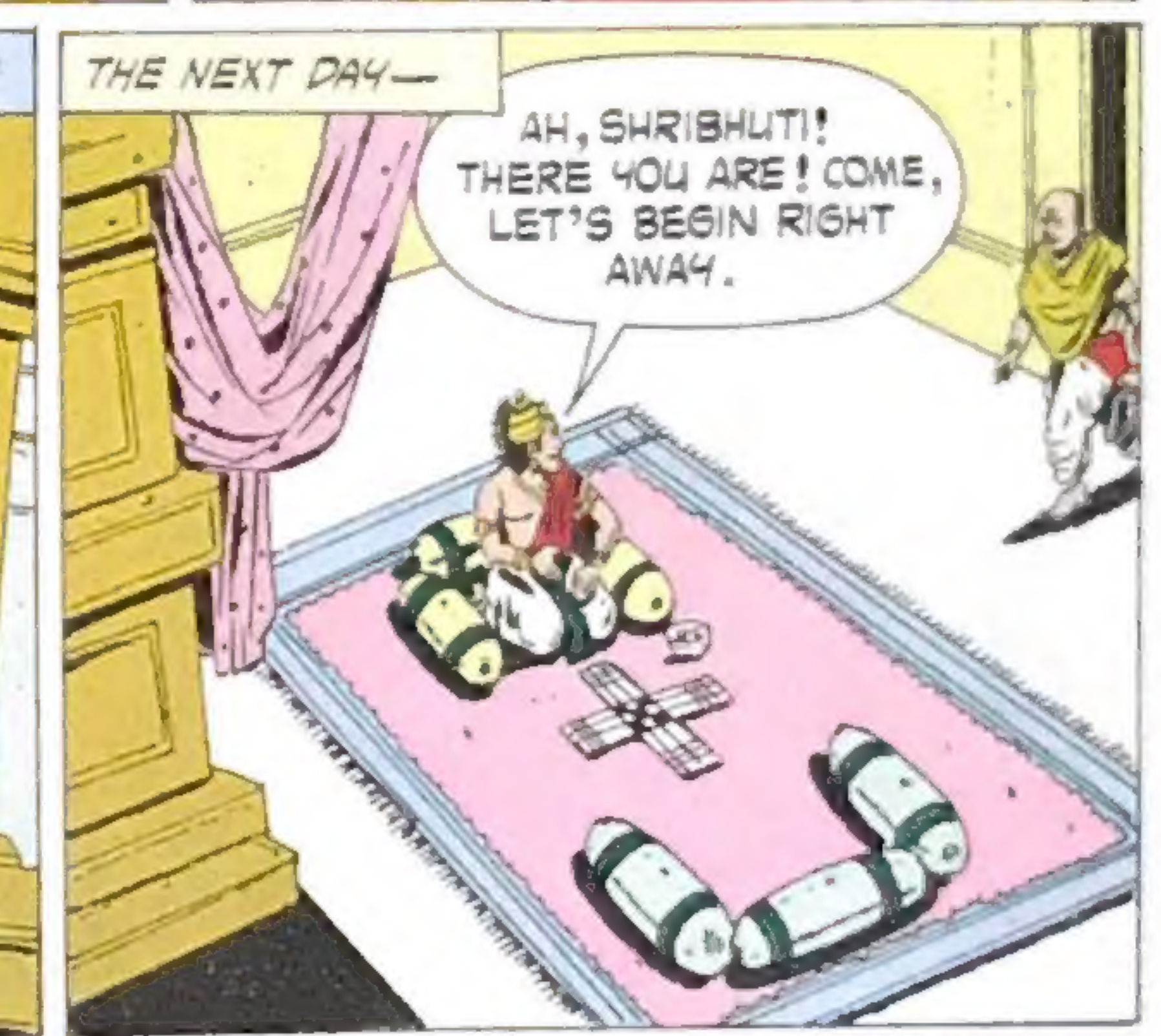
THE MINISTER LAID OUT THE PLOT TO TRAP SHRIBHUTI.

EXCELLENT! I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.



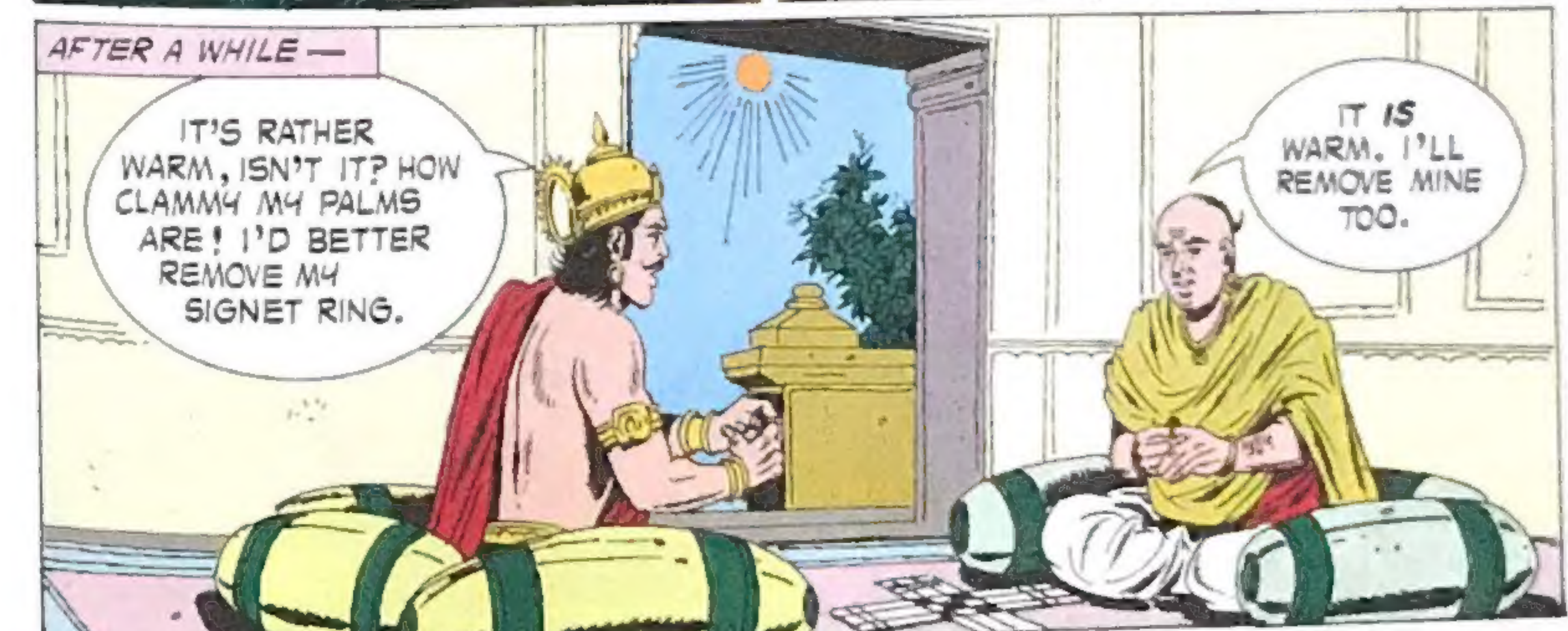
THE NEXT DAY—

AH, SHRIBHUTI! THERE YOU ARE! COME, LET'S BEGIN RIGHT AWAY.



AFTER A WHILE —

IT'S RATHER WARM, ISN'T IT? HOW CLAMMY MY PALMS ARE! I'D BETTER REMOVE MY SIGNET RING.



IT IS WARM. I'LL REMOVE MINE TOO.

AS THEY CONTINUED TO PLAY —



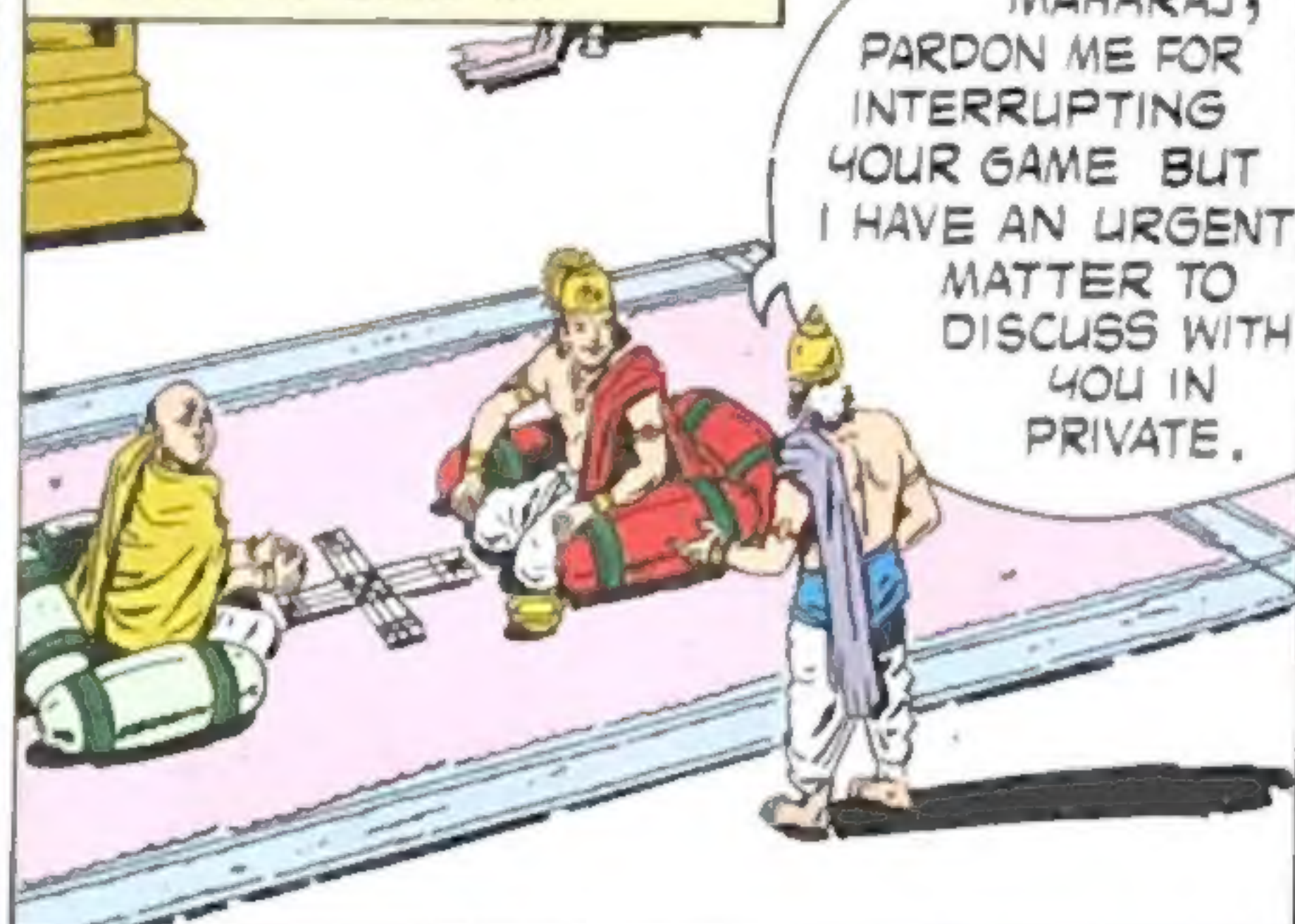
OH! OH! HOW CLUMSY OF ME! I'LL...

DON'T WORRY, MAHARAJ, I'LL PICK THEM UP.



HE FELL FOR IT! I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE SO EASY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE MINISTER CAME IN.



MAHARAJ, PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR GAME BUT I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.



YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, SHRIBHUTI. AFTER ALL ROYAL DUTIES MUST COME FIRST.



HERE'S THE RING! I DID MANAGE TO SWITCH THEM. I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

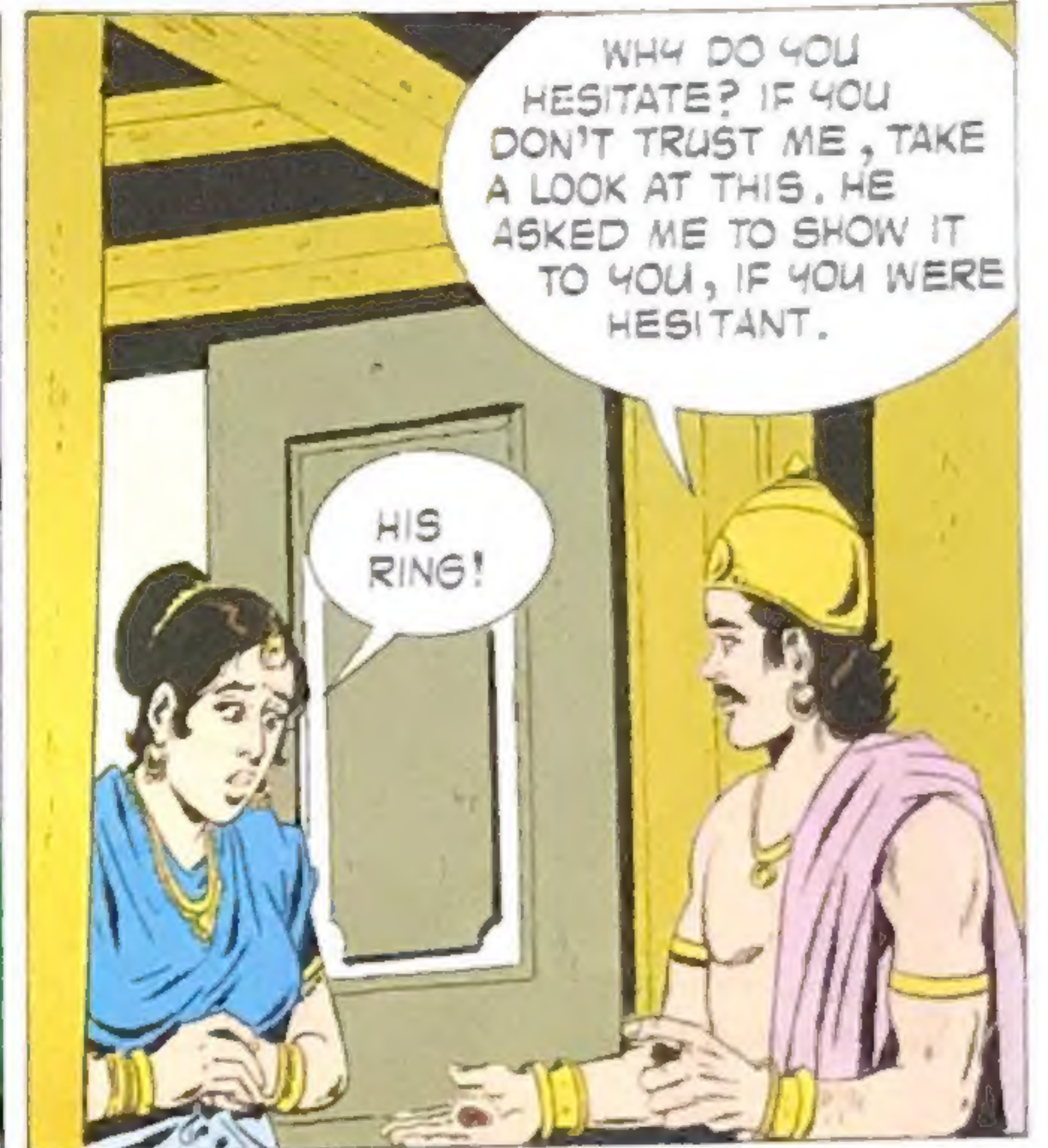
AND THE RAJA WENT BACK TO THE GAME.

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE RAJA'S ATTENDANT STOOD AT SHRIBHUTI'S DOOR.



THE PRIEST HAS ASKED FOR THE CASKET OF GOLD COINS.

BUT... BUT...



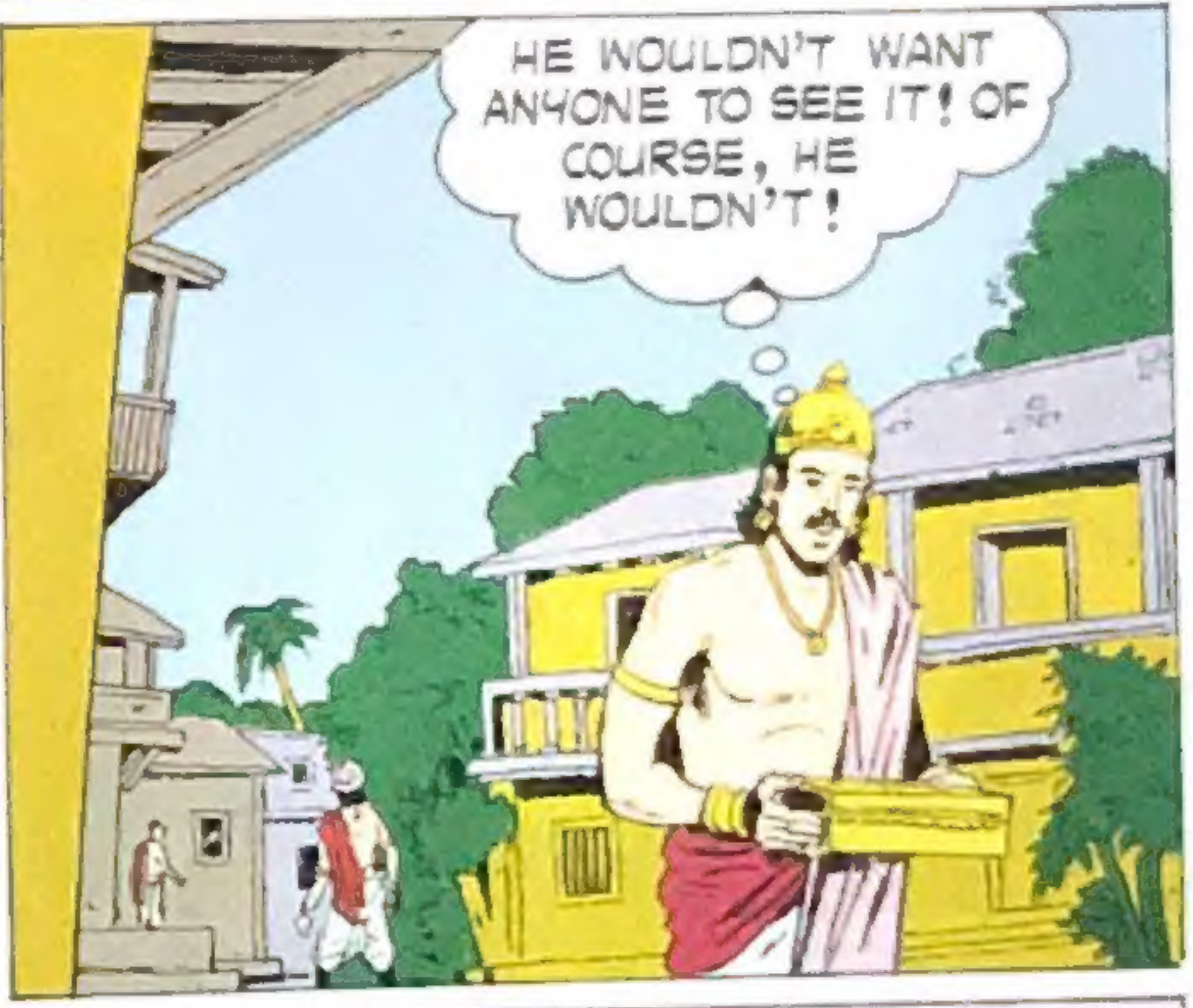
WHY DO YOU HESITATE? IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS. HE ASKED ME TO SHOW IT TO YOU, IF YOU WERE HESITANT.

HIS RING!

SHRIBHUTI'S WIFE WENT IN AND CAME OUT WITH THE CASKET.



PLEASE DELIVER IT SAFELY. AND... AND COVER IT WITH YOUR CLOTH. HE WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE IT.



HE WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE IT! OF COURSE, HE WOULDN'T!

WHEN THE ATTENDANT STOOD BEFORE THE RAJA AND SHRIBHUTI —

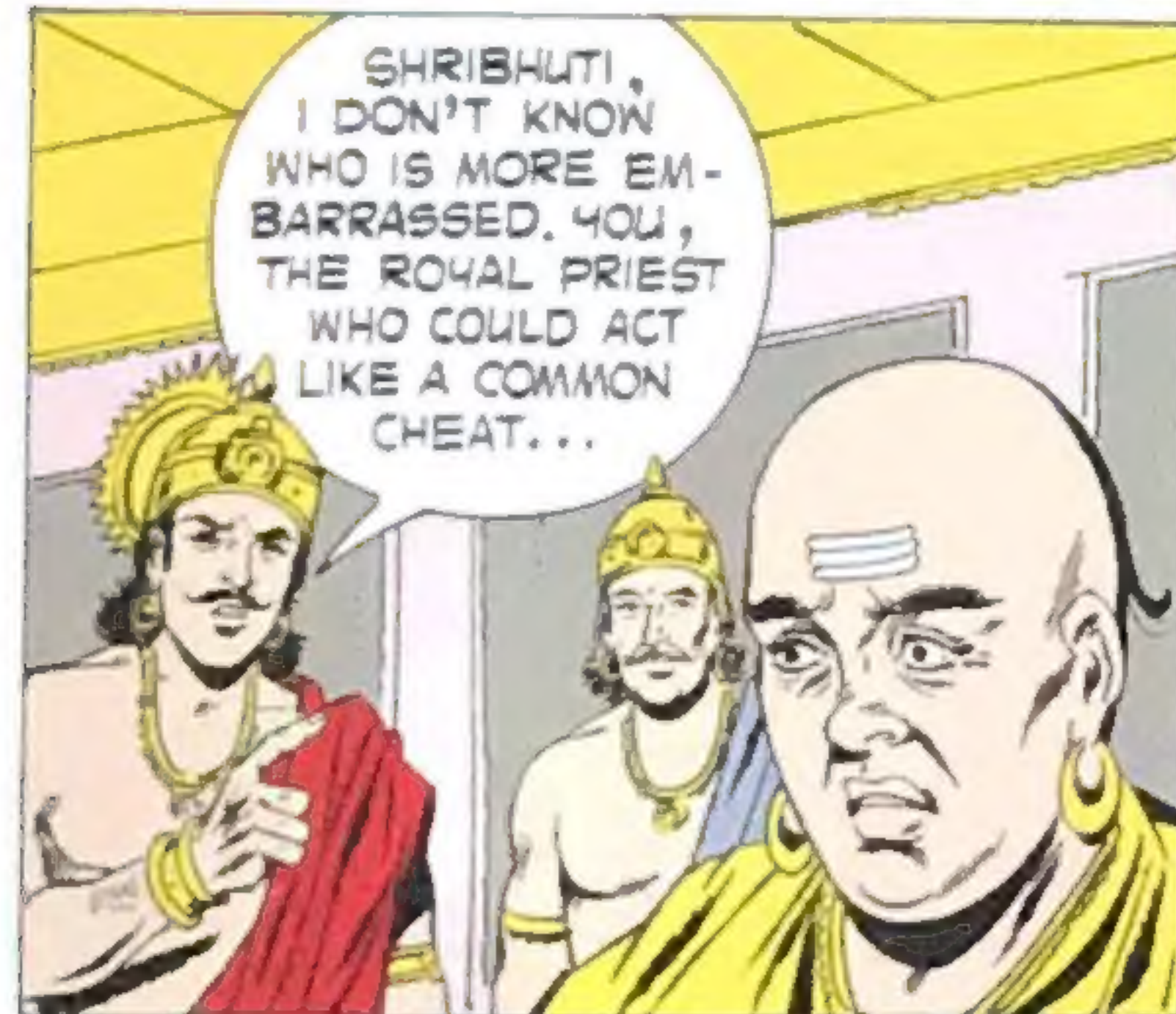


DO YOU RECOGNISE THAT CASKET, SHRIBHUTI?

AS THE TREMBLING SHRIBHUTI WAS STRUGGLING TO FIND SOMETHING TO SAY, HE WALKED THE MINISTER WITH BHADRAMITRA.



PERHAPS, YOU DO RECOGNISE BHADRAMITRA, THE MERCHANT OF PADMIKHET. IS YOUR MEMORY REFRESHED OR DOES IT NEED ANOTHER SHOCK?



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